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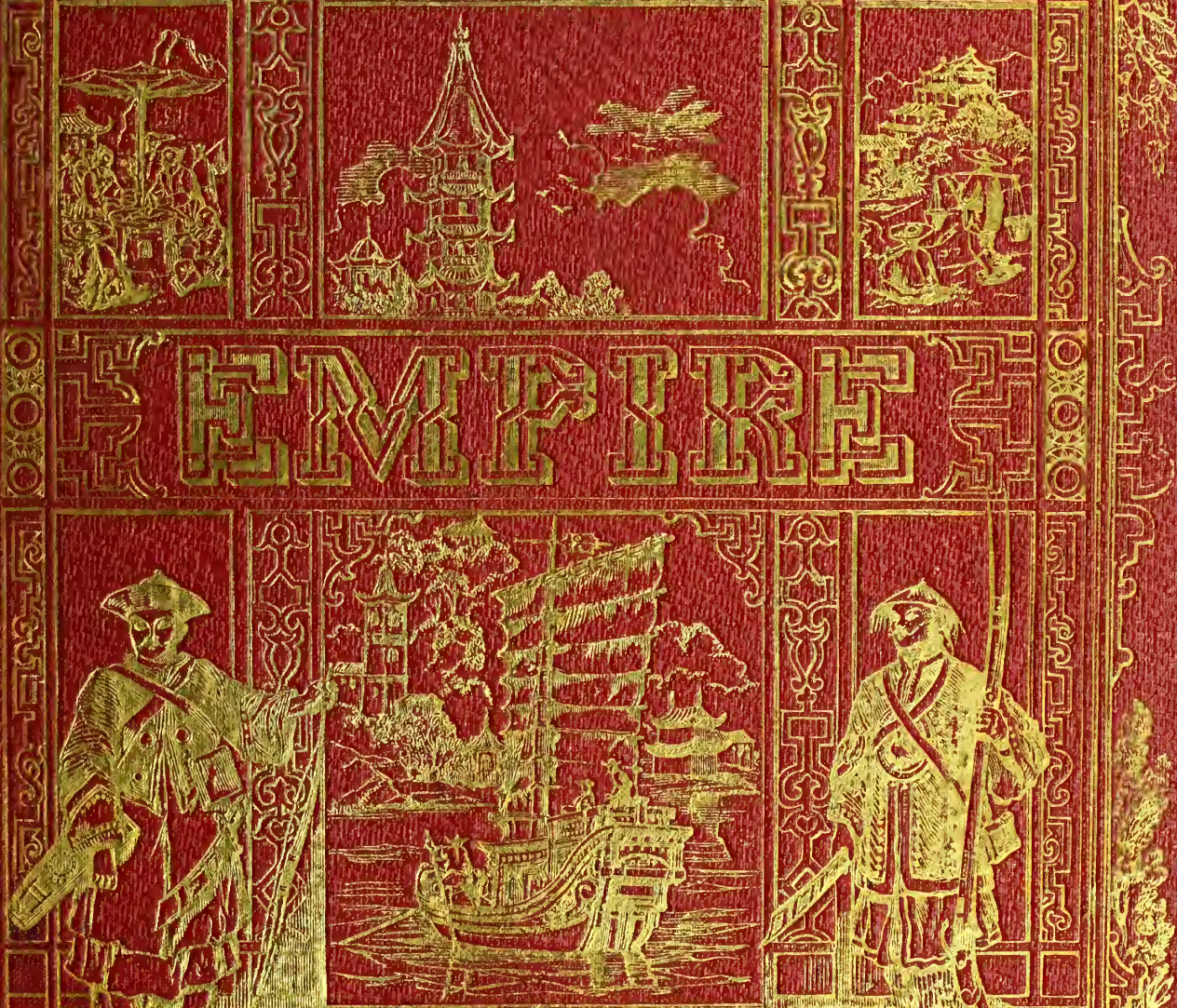

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Hong-Kong

THE HON. EAST INDIA COMPANYS STEAMER 'NEMESIS'
AND THE BOATS OF
H.M. SULPHUR, CALLIOPE, LARNE AND STARLING,
DESTROYING THE CHINESE WAR JUNKS IN ANSONS BAY,
JANUARY 7 1841.

CHINA,

IN

SCENERY, ARCHITECTURE, SOCIAL HABITS, &c.

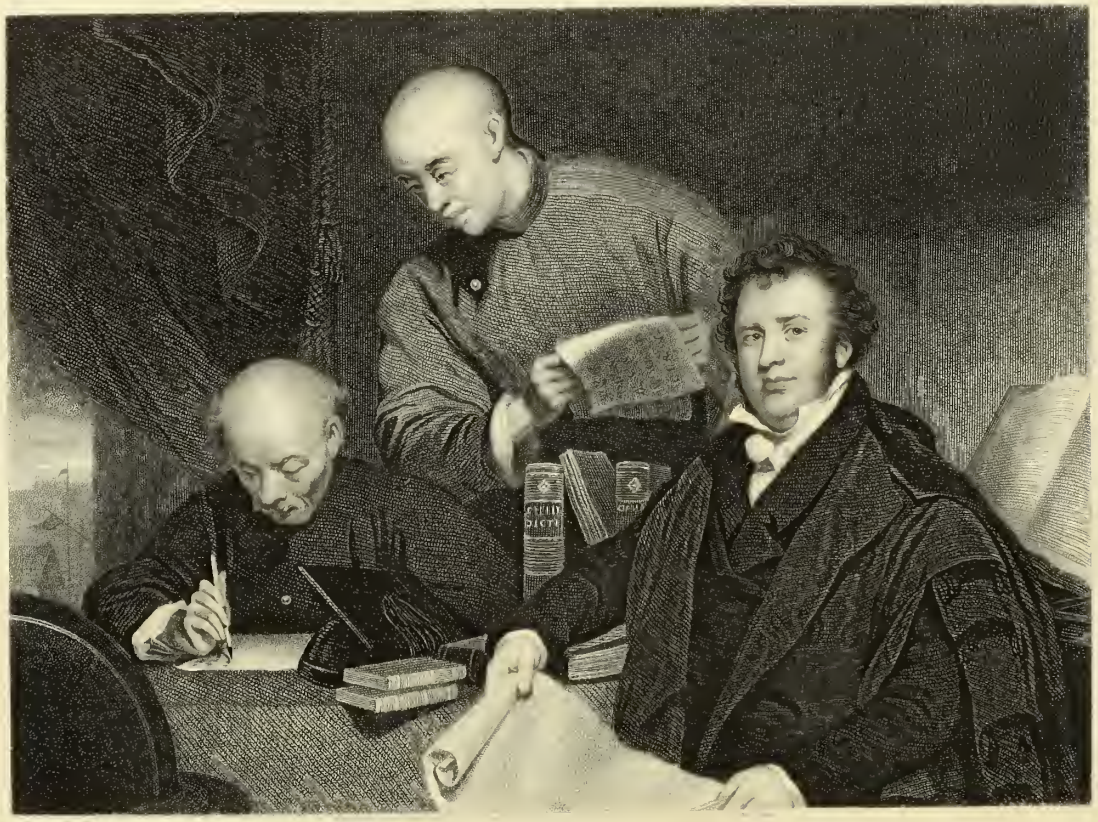
Illustrated.

CHINA,

IN ITS

SCENERY, ARCHITECTURE, SOCIAL HABITS, &c.

Illustrated.



Robert Morrison

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CHINA AND BURMAH

SCALE

Longitude East from Greenwich

The Map Drawn & Engraved by J. Rapkin

OVERLAND ROUTES TO INDIA & CHINA.

NOTE.
The Mail Steam Packet Route.
The Marseilles Overland Routes
The German Overland Route
The Euphrates Route

NOTE
Railways opened on the line of Routes
Peoples Rail from England to India (Engineers Wm Fo)
Pr & Ship Canal at Isthmus of Suez.
Electric Telegraph uniting England & America.

POST OFFICE, LONDON

GIBRALTAR

MALTA

THE MAIL CROSSING THE DESERT

SUEZ

BOMBAY

ADEN

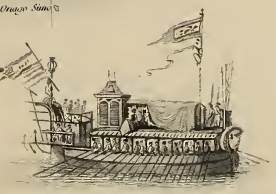
MADRAS

The Illustrations by H. Warren. Engraved by J. H. Kernot

JAPAN & COREA

YEDO

DREAMS



STATE BARGE

SCALE

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Longitude East from Greenwich

The Illustrations by H. Warren & Engraved by J. H. Kernot

The Map Drawn & Engraved by J. Rapkin

THE LONDON PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY

Off that peak lies the Isle of Perim, of which the Marquis Wellesley took possession early in the century, and which was reoccupied by the East India Company in 1857. It is a bare, bleak rock, off which turtle are caught; but it is a highly important position, as it completely surrounds the entrance of the Red Sea. Aden is a few miles farther to the east; and right glad are the passengers to find themselves off that port, which lies to the east of Cape Aden, on the south-west of Arabia. Its distance from Suez is 1,330 miles; and it is 110 miles from the entrance to the Red Sea. It was purchased from the Arabs by the East India Company in 1839, when the population was under 1,000. The number of inhabitants had increased to 20,000 in 1842; and there are now about 40,000—a proof that the British government has not been detrimental to the interests of the place. The town lies in a deep hollow, and is surrounded by high masses of rock. The houses are all built of bamboo, and have a unique appearance. As soon as the steamer arrives, a number of Arab boats come off, each manned by two or four native boatmen, who convey the passengers ashore, as the vessel is always detained here a few hours to coal. They find comfortable accommodation at the hotel, where there are drawing, dining, billiard, and private rooms; and if they are disposed to view the lions of the place, guides can always be found to conduct them to the British camp, the bazaar attached to it, the fortifications, &c.

From Aden, the steamer proceeds to Bombay. But there are always passengers for Madras and Calcutta; and they have to transfer themselves and their luggage to the Peninsular and Oriental Company's vessels destined for those ports, which leave Aden on the 10th and 25th of each month. The passengers for China generally embark on board the Madras packet, which steams from Aden to Port de Galle, in Ceylon, 2,310 miles, the longest distance gone over without stopping, from Southampton to Calcutta. It is usually performed in from ten to twelve days. The passengers' health is generally invigorated during the voyage; for the distressing heat of the Red Sea is no longer felt, but genial breezes prevail, and the change can only be duly appreciated by those who have experienced it.

Ceylon is now the central point for the Oriental mail-packets. The packet from Southampton touches there, and branch mails sail, after its arrival, to Madras, Calcutta, Penang, Singapore, Hong-Kong, Shanghai, Manilla, and Australia. The island—270 miles long by 140 broad—lies off the southern extremity of the peninsula of Hindostan, from which it is separated by the Gulf of Manaar, and Palk's Strait. A long chain of islets and sand-banks in this strait and gulf, however, called Adam's Bridge, extending to the island of Manaar, nearly connects Ceylon with the peninsula. There is the greatest pearl-fishery in the world in the Gulf of Manaar; and Ceylon itself is famous for cocoa-nut trees; and also for its cinnamon and coffee. The native inhabitants are called Singalese; they chiefly inhabit the central and southern parts of the island. There are Hindoos on the north and north-eastern coasts. The remainder of the population—about 1,500,000 in all—consists of Moors and Mohammedans, of Arabian descent, and a few Europeans. The island is a dependency of the British government; and the governor resides at Colombo. The other principal towns are Candy, Trincomalee, Pointe de Galle, Jaffna, and Newera Ellia. The latter, which is laid down in very few maps, is (according to Mr. Baker, who resided eight years in Ceylon) situated upon a plain, 6,300 feet above the level of the sea, at the distance of 185 miles from Pointe de Galle, 115 from Colombo, and 47 from Candy. Its situation appears to be one of the most delightful that can be imagined. It is considered the Ceylon *sanatorium;* and many an invalid who has resorted there has found that health revisit him which he had despaired ever again of enjoying.

Pointe de Galle, on the south-west side of the island, has an excellent harbour. It is the station for the East India packets; and from thence the branch packets start for Madras, Bengal, and China. Our business is with those that proceed to the latter; and their first station, after leaving Pointe de Galle, is Penang, or Prince of Wales's Island, in the Straits of Malacca, off the west coast of the Malay peninsula—called by the natives Pulo Penang, or "Betel-nut Island," because its form resembles the areca-nut, which grows there in abundance, and forms a principal article of food with the natives of the island and the neighbouring continent. This island is reached in five days from Pointe de Galle: during the latter part of the voyage, land is never lost sight of; and Pulo Penang itself is a beautiful and picturesque object from the sea. It was acquired by the East India Company in 1785; it being given, in that year, by the rajah of the Malay province of Quedah, to whom it then belonged, as a portion with his daughter, who married the master of a trading-vessel. From the latter it passed to the Company. At that time it had not a single inhabitant: it has now upwards of 40,000. It is very fertile and healthy, and the capital, George Town, is one of the neatest towns in the East Indies. Wide, straight streets cross each other at right angles; and there the Chinese have their bazaars, formed of square white pillars eight feet high, supporting a roof of tiles, or a thatch of dried plantain leaves. The hill overlooking the town is studded with picturesque buildings; and the bay is edged with well-built bungalows. The passengers are allowed six hours at Penang; and they should not omit to see the waterfall, "the ride to which is through the environs of George Town, replete with smart bungalows in shady places; then along the coast, then up a beautiful valley, where every spice-tree grows, and many a rare flower we prize in England springs up a weed. The hills that close this valley in are clad with forest fruit-trees;"* and a steep ascent has to be climbed on foot before the waterfall is reached. The sight well repays the trouble and fatigue.

Two days' steaming from Penang, and Singapore is reached. The voyage is pleasant, the steamer never being out of sight of land; and the mountain-ranges of Malacca on one hand, with the groups of mountainous islands on the other, frequently cause many picturesque scenes to pass before the eye. Singapore—(*Singhapura*, "City of the Lion")—lies at the bottom of a cluster of islets, about seventy in number, off the southern extremity of the Malay peninsula, from which it is separated by a strait, only about a quarter of a mile across in its narrowest part. The surface is diversified with hills and valleys; it is well-stocked with timber, and is fertile and healthy.

* Mr. Wingrove Cooke.

The town of Singapore, on the south side of the island, consists of "low houses, crowded together on the left-hand side of a small creek, a long line of smart bungalows stretching along the margin of the shore, on the other side of the creek, with an esplanade in front of them; undulating hills in the background are covered with foliage;" on one of which, called the Governor's Hill, stands the governor's bungalow. The population, in recent returns, is estimated at 60,000, of whom 20,000 are Chinese. But Mr. Wingrove Cooke says, there are "70,000 Chinamen, and not above 300 women," and that a "horrible demoralisation exists among the males—a demoralisation which might call down fire from heaven." If this is a correct picture the prospect is fearful. Singapore was taken possession of by Sir Stamford Raffles in 1818. Seven years after, the town of Malacca, with a territory extending about forty miles along the coast, and thirty miles inland, was ceded to Britain by the Dutch, in exchange for Bencoolen, in Sumatra. The possession of Malacca, Singapore, and Penang, gives us complete command of the passage to China; and with Sarawak on the coast of Borneo, and Hong-Koug off the mouth of the Pearl River, Britain has the complete preponderance in that quarter of the globe. Singapore is a free port, and has become a great entrepôt. The average value of its imports is estimated at £3,500,000, and of its exports, at £3,000,000 per annum.

From Singapore to Houg-Kong is an eight days' trip. The coast of Malacca is in view for some distance, the mountain-ranges being covered with foliage; numerous tigers are seen creeping and leaping about; and it is rather pleasant than not, to witness their sports, as the looker-on is out of danger. A solitary rock, called "The Shoe"—though it more resembles a dog's head—is passed, and also the mouth of the Si-Kiang, one of the rivers of China; the scenery around which is extremely beautiful, and its natural features are varied by the forts and bastions on the tops of the hills. As the steamer proceeds, she passes through an archipelago of rocky islets, "with a sort of green mildew upon them, but no marks of habitation or of animals." Very soon, Hong-Kong is pointed out, and its first appearance is that of "an irregular line of broken, barren highlands, almost mixed up with the higher mountains of the mainland." Soon after the steamer is anchored in the harbour. And thus the traveller to China ends the Overland Route, having arrived at his first resting-place in that empire.

HONG-KONG—SHANGHAI.

"Hail, little isle! and Hong's fair haven, hail!
First-fruits of China to the ocean-queen:
New orient realms, new navies' embryo sail
Glass'd in thy shifting horoscope are seen.
May British virtue shine *in thee* confest;
And, *in her colony*, be Britain blest." C. J. C.

Hong-Kong* is one of an archipelago of rocky islets, in the estuary of the Pearl or Canton river, long known to, but only visited by, Europeans within the last few years. It lies about thirty-five miles due east of Macao, and nearly ninety-five miles S.S.E. of Canton. The estuary in which this archipelago lies forms a delta, measuring nearly a hundred miles on each side. It is fed by numerous streams; and the name of Pearl River, given to the grand junction of those streams as it flows to Cantou, is said to have been derived from an accident that occurred to a pearl-merchant several centuries ago, who had a large packet of ocean-pearls engulphed in its flood. Near the spot where the loss was incurred, a rock rises, on which a building has been erected, called the Haichoo-sze, or "Sea-pearl Temple." When the embouchure of this delta is passed, Hong-Kong lies to the right. The name of the island is derived from that of a small stream, Hoong-Keang, or "red torrent"—so named from the colour of the soil through which it flows, according to some. Others derive the name from Hiang-Kiang, "scented," or "fragrant" stream; and it has been suggested, that the epithet was "the grateful memento of some thirsty mariners, who, ages ago, obtained here a seasonable supply in time of need."

The length of the island is about nine miles, and the breadth varies from six to about eight. "It presents," says a late visitant (the Rev. W. Milne), "a very uneven, and exceedingly barren surface, consisting chiefly of rugged and rocky ranges of hills, with narrow ravines"—the east and west extremities being divided from the centre by two of these chasms on each side—"through which streams of excellent and never-failing water flow." The mountains descend in steep declines to the north coast; and, in that direction, their bases nearly reach the sea. The southern coast is much less rugged and abrupt. In the valleys, as a rule, the climate is genial, but it is hot in summer; whilst in winter the cold is sometimes severe; and, as in England, sudden changes in temperature are not unfrequent.

"The south-west monsoon prevails during the summer months, but the mountains shut out the northern coasts from the benefits of its influence. During this season, the air, in the northern part of the island, is unhealthy; the rain then falls in torrents; and the intense heat, acting upon a moist and undrained surface, raises abundant vapours, and causes the prevalence of malaria. The southern half of the island, which enjoys the advantages of the summer monsoon, is more generally healthy."†

* Our view of Hong-Kong is taken from Kow-loon (or *Koo-lung*, the "winding dragon"), a peninsula jutting from the opposite coast.—(See vol. i., p. 170.)

† Wm. Hughes.

When the British, under Sir Henry Pottinger, in 1841, took possession of the island, there were several villages scattered over its surface. Chek-choo was the largest; the houses there were superior to those of most others on the island, and it had 800 inhabitants, who were employed in trading, farming, and curing fish. The other villages—except Tie-tam, a mere fishing hamlet of fifty inhabitants—were agricultural. At that date, a tent was pitched for "the government-house," on the north coast, on the site where the city of Victoria now stands—a site then covered with brushwood. Victoria is the

"Capital of the colony, and the seat of the government. It extends nearly three miles from east to west, part of the central grounds being occupied by government, for military barracks and hospitals, commissariat buildings, the colonial church, officers' quarters, post-office, and harbour-master's depôt, all which are overlooked by the government-house itself, higher up the hill. West and east of this central position, almost close to the sea-beach, stretch the private residences of foreigners, commercial houses, club-house, the exchange, two or three chapels, with public market-places. The Chinese colonists [and so many people have come over from the mainland, that the population, at the last census, exceeded 72,000] occupy ground principally to the west of the central division, modelling their houses after the native fashion."*

The European bungalows "generally consist of three rooms, about forty feet long and fifteen feet high, all opening upon a verandah; some bedrooms, and a set of detached offices for the Chinese;" every European having his native "*comprador*," who is his general agent. "The pleasantest of these bungalows are those which are situated the highest up the hill, overlooking the harbour and the country beyond."†

The aboriginal inhabitants—about 4,000 in number—were poor, but contented and industrious; and when the British first went there, the "innate gentleness and disinterested hospitality of the farmers and fishermen," are said to have formed a striking contrast to the "insolence of office" experienced at Canton. Agriculture, fishing, and curing fish, were their employments; and Sir John Davies, who was there in 1841, says—

"We had occasion, during our stay at the anchorage, to remark their singular mode of fishing. They created a horrible din by their gongs and shouting, and beat, in the most frantic manner, the surface of the calm waters, with oars and large sticks. By this process they appeared to bewilder and stun the fish, and to drive them into their nets in considerable numbers. We observed, at least, that great success attended their labours. Indeed, any person, who has verified, by experiment, the extraordinary power of conveying sound, exhibited by water, need not be surprised at the efficacy of this plan of frightening out of their wits the finny tribes, who would seem to possess the faculty of hearing in a very sensible degree."

The fisherman's hut is seen in almost every sheltered nook; and before it stands a piece of machinery, consisting of a bench raised a few feet from the ground, with foot and back-board, to give the occupant complete control over his movements; on each side is an upright post, the two being connected by a windlass, with a wheel at each extremity. A net is suspended from the posts, which is let down by means of the wheels, and raised again, by the same machinery, when filled with the fish.

Hong-Kong exhibits many visible signs of improvement since its occupation by the English. A noble military road, sixteen yards broad, has been constructed, and continued entirely round the island. Branch roads to Tie-Tam and Chuck-py-wan, traverse the hills, exhibiting, in their formation, the most scientific modes of civil-engineering practised in Europe. Cultivation has also improved; and, as already observed, the population has greatly augmented. This vast increase in the number of Chinese residents, is a proof that that people have no objection to British rule; and it is obvious, also, that great advantages must result from it, or so many persons would not voluntarily place themselves under British authority.

Since its occupation, Hong-Kong has been constituted a crown colony; the governor has a general superintendence over the trade carried on at the ports to which foreigners are admitted, and is the head of the consular establishments. Victoria has also been raised to the rank of a city; and the island and its dependencies made a bishop's see and diocese, under the name of the "Bishopric of Victoria."

As a commercial entrepôt, as a safe asylum for our shipping in the Oriental seas, as commanding the estuary of the Canton river, and as a military station, Hong-Kong possesses the utmost value. It has obtained most of the trade formerly carried on at Macao; but it never can become a port for the direct and immediate shipment of Chinese exports, the mountainous and inhospitable character of the coast between it and the productive provinces of the empire, completely intercepting communication. The harbour, however (the subject of the accompanying view), is one of the noblest roadsteads in the East. Situated between the north-west extremity of the island and the mainland, it may be entered southward through Lamma Channel—westward by the Cap-sing-mun passage, and from the east by vessels sailing close under the peninsula of Koo-loon.

From Hong-Kong the steamer proceeds to Shanghai, a five days' trip; and, no doubt, arrangements will be made for packets to run to the other ports opened by the treaty of 1858. Shanghai is a seaport, on the river Woo-sung, which falls into the Yellow Sea, some miles below the Yang-tse-kiang. Ascending the Woo-sung, passing the village of that name, and many hamlets and farmsteads that skirt the banks, suddenly you see Shanghai, on the right, or west coast. The name signifies "the upper sea," and has been given, Mr. Milne supposes, "to distinguish it from another watery region, known as "the lower sea." The city, which is three centuries old, is irregular in form, and surrounded by a wall three miles and three-quarters in circumference, fifteen feet broad, and twenty feet high. The streets are narrow and dirty, and the public buildings inferior to those of Ningpo. There is a mint, and numerous manufactories of flowered silk, glass, and paper, and many establishments for the carving and making articles in ivory, bone, gold, and silver. Before it was declared an open port, a large trade was carried on with the north of China and Central Asia; and whilst a new commerce has been opened with Europe, its ancient trade has increased. Since 1843, a European settlement, with factories, or hongs, has grown up without the walls of Shanghai, the buildings of which are regular and handsome, and have every Oriental luxurious adjunct.

* The Rev. W. Milne.

† Wingrove Cooke

"Nothing can be more imposing than the first appearance of this settlement. A small quay, extending for upwards of a mile, fronting the river, is lined with the separate and handsome dwellings of the merchants, surrounded by broad verandahs and balconies, and generally inclosed within beautiful gardens. Immediately above the settlement, and higher up the river, is the old walled city. On the river side of the city, a forest of masts, appertaining to junks of all sizes and descriptions, and decorated with flags of every colour and device, extend as far as the eye can reach. The river itself is one scene of bustle and activity, being continually covered with boats and lighters, conveying merchandise to and fro."*

The great fault of the settlement is, that it is so confined. From the nature of the surrounding country, neither carriages nor horses can be used in it; and the quay or the race-course are the only places where the inhabitants can ride or drive. Billiards and bowling, in an American bowling-alley, are the favourite amusements. Our countrymen who reside at Shanghai are celebrated for their profuse hospitality.

CANTON.

Here commerce took her stand, and will again,
Now that stern war has ceased, and gentle peace
Resumes her sway, diffusing happiness around.

The voyage from Hong-Kong to Canton is frequently performed in a junk; but regular packets run between the two places. The first part of the trip is across the Delta, the area of which is largely occupied with islands, islets, and sand-banks. This Delta, or the "Outer Waters," as it is called amongst maritime men, is terminated by the Bocca Tigris, or the Bogue, in lat. 22° 45′ N., long. 113° 15′ E.; which is the entrance to the Pearl River. The Bogue has, on the east side, the islands Anunghoy and Chuenpee; on the west, the island of Ty-cock-tow; in the centre, that of North Wantung. These islands were strongly fortified, and the forts upon them were called the Bogue Forts. Immediately on clearing the Bogue, on the west is Tiger Island, lying on the north of Ty-cock-tow, the passage between them being called Gutzlaff's Strait. This island is a lofty and conspicuous rock, on which is a formidable battery; and the river frequently beats violently on its shores, resembling the surge of the angry sea. The river is intersected with islands, till Canton is reached; the most important being Pottinger's Island, French Island, Dacre's Island, Whampoa Island, and Honan Island: the north-west extremity of the latter lies opposite Canton.

The name of Canton is intimately connected with the history of foreign intercourse with China; and some interest must naturally be felt in regard to a city with which England has been so long commercially connected, and which has recently been the scene of such important events. It is situated on the left, or northern bank of the Tchou-kiang, or Pearl River, about seventy miles above the estuary or delta in which we find Hong-Kong, in lat. 23° 6′ N., long. 113° 15′ E. It is built on a plain which extends to the foot of the White Cloud Mountains, whose highest point rises to an altitude of 1,200 feet. There, myriads of the deceased Chinese have been interred; and on several prominent points, strong forts are erected, commanding the city. The name, Canton, by which the city is universally known to foreigners, is a European corruption of Kwang-tung; meaning, in the native dialect, "Broad East." The inhabitants themselves call it Sang-ching, or "our capital." Sometimes, in conversation with the natives of other provinces, they will use the term Kwang-tung-sang-ching, *i.e.*, "the capital of Canton." They also describe it, poetically, as the "city of rams," the "city of the genii," the "city of grain." The origin of these romantic epithets is popularly ascribed to the following legend, which is related by Dr. Milne:—

"After the foundation of the city (which dates so far back as 2,000 years ago), five genii, clothed in garments of five different colours, and riding on rams similarly distinguished, met at this place. Each of them bore in its mouth a stalk of grain having six ears; these were presented to the tenants of the soil, with the words, 'May famine and dearth never visit you.' Upon this the rams became immediately petrified, and converted into monuments of stone. And should any foreign archæologist be disposed to push his inquiries immediately on the spot, and will place himself under a native guide, he may find these five stone rams in the Temple of the Five Genii, which stands hard by the city gate of the same name."

Canton consists of a walled city, and suburbs without the wall; and, says Dr. Yvan, the two occupy "a space which cannot be gone round in less than six hours, stepping out quickly." The population is estimated at upwards of one million, many of whom are idle vagabonds from all parts of the south of China, who make Canton their head-quarters. The walled city is a square, or nearly so. It is bounded on the north by the White Cloud Mountains; on the east by waste and marshy plains; on the south by the suburbs, which extend beyond the walls, to the east and west, and are carried down to the river; on the west, there is a rather extensive space of waste ground, stretching from the suburbs to the Tchou-kiang; and the stream itself, both on the south and west, is covered with that floating town which forms one of the curiosities of Canton.

The city within the walls is divided by a wall running east and west, parallel with the river, into the old, or Tartar, and the new, or Chinese portions. The former, lying to the north, is three times the extent of the new part. The commissioner, and all the civil and military authorities, except the director-general of the customs, reside there; the approaches to the official residences being indicated by what are called "Maudariu Poles" --

* *China, Australia, and the Pacific Islands*, by J. D'Ewes, Esq.

poles something like those used in England for scaffolding—placed in the streets. Communication between the twin cities, the suburbs, and with the surrounding country, is kept up by sixteen gates; twelve being in the wall of circumvallation, and four in that of partition. Each of these gates were formerly strongly guarded, and all egress was forbidden to foreigners. The Chinese display their foudness for poetical imagery by the names given to the gates, four of them being called the gates of "Mighty Peace," the "Five Genii, "Eternal Rest," and "Everlasting Plenty." They give similar names to their streets. In Canton, there are the "Dragon Street," the "Street of the Warlike Dragon," the "Street of Triumphal Arches," the "Golden Lily," and the "Flower Street." The majority of the streets are what would be considered, in Europe, mere narrow alleys, and the best is one that intersects the Tartar city from east to west, and is called the "Straight Street of Benevolence and Love." On the maps it looks to be a noble avenue; in reality, it is not more than ten feet wide. There are three or four similar streets in the Tartar division; the rest are mere lanes, covered with dirty, ill-conditioned houses, built of bamboo and earth, and inhabited by people as dirty and ill-conditioned as their residences.

Till the capture of the city by the English and French forces, in December, 1857, the interior was interdicted to the "barbarians," as the Chinese presumptuously name all foreigners. But according to the Mandarin Pense-Chen, who lived in the suburbs, and of whose house Dr. Yvan was an inmate, the interior presented little to attract. There were large houses in both parts of the city, but none, he said, were equal to his in beauty; whilst the streets in which they stood were more melancholy than the others, all the edifices being surrounded with walls, which hid them from the view; figures painted on the outer doors alone denoting the dignity of the proprietors. Most of the streets "were deserted, as those of a village, the most frequented being less noisy than the Chinese quarter in Macao." In the Tartar city, the official residences are large, and they have extensive grounds, in some of which deer were kept. There are several temples surrounded by grounds, let to gardeners, who cultivate rice and other valuables; the revenues going to the maintenance of the bonzes. The streets, or narrow lanes, in this part of the city, so intersect each other, that a stranger is sure to lose himself in their intricacy. Many of them are inhabited by the descendants of the Tartar conquerors, who are, to the present day—

"As barbarous as their forefathers, those nomade soldiers, who lived in tents. They inhabit perfect dens, built of dried mud; the uneven ground serves as their flooring. These places contain only one room, in which men, women, and children—quite naked and emaciated—eat, sleep, and swarm with vermin, in a state of idleness. Before the entrance hangs a rattan mat. It is neither the modesty of the woman, nor the fear of thieves, which has interposed this veil between these frightful interiors and the indiscreet glances of the passers-by, but simply the necessity of a protection against the north wind. The hideous lanes, bordered by these dirty huts, are not paved; the least shower hollows out the ground, and forms stinking puddles, which resemble reservoirs, destined to collect the liquid mud which the rain drives before it."*

After the capture of the city, the "Special Correspondents" of the London press, obtained access to the previously strictly-guarded interior. One of them—the gentleman attached to the *Morning Herald*—sent an account of his visit to that paper; of which the following is the most interesting passage:—

"Starting for a morning ramble, and leaving the east gate [which leads into the Street of Benevolence and Love], the first place of note come to is the Temple of Confucius—a huge building with good accommodation for quartering troops, but nothing else to recommend it to notice. Next is reached a large hall, the middle of which is used for a market, the extreme end for a joss-house, and the sides of the building are fitted up in compartments, where various figures, with frightful accuracy of detail, represent the various tortures and punishment of criminals—the horrid glee of the torturer, and the agony of the sufferer being far too accurately drawn for European tastes. Again, further on, is the treasury; beyond this is the yamun [palace] of Peh Kwei [the Tartar governor]; and beyond this, again, the residence of the Tartar general. All these yamuns are of the same style of building. You enter a large gate, on which is depicted two ancient, gigantic, and ferocious-looking monsters, who are supposed to represent the ancestors of the present occupant of the palace, and, on entering their abode, they are most reverently chin-chinned by their descendants. The delight of Peh Kwei himself, on again beholding these ugly pantomimic paintings [after having been in the custody of the English], was something to look at and remember. Passing the first gate, you cross a courtyard, and enter a large open hall, on either side of which are the dwellings of the various domestics and coolies of the mandarin possessor. You walk through this, and cross the courtyard, and enter a large open hall, which shows signs of more care and cleanliness than the preceding. You then reach the great hall of the mandarin himself, where he dispenses justice and issues his decrees. Passing through this, another courtyard is entered, where the most elegant flora, in all their variety and beauty, may be seen, carefully attended by some accomplished hand. Passing this, and plucking a pink camelia—for it is impossible to resist the temptation—you enter another hall, leading off from which are the women's apartments—the most elegant of the whole. China, glass, filagree work, tapestries, silk, damask, silver ornaments, were here to be seen in profusion; and these were the only apartments where real taste and real comfort seemed to be studied."

According to this writer, it was easy to see, that, for years and years past, Canton had been declining. It was impossible to walk twenty yards in the interior, without meeting the vestiges of decay. "Except in a very few instances, their temples and joss-houses are almost in ruins. Their idols, numerous enough, certainly lead a very deplorable existence;" many being *minus* toes, fingers, and even entire hands and feet, and "not having had a touch of paint or gilding for many years past." The celebrated college in the south-east part of the Tartar city, which called forth the eulogies of Voltaire, is now "weed-grown and dilapidated, and, from its appearance, it seems more than probable, that, for years and years past, not a single scholar has presented himself for the dread ordeal of a mandarin examination." The "only house in Canton, which an English gentleman would think habitable," according to the Correspondent of the *Times*—all the rest being "huge, dusty, ruinous, dilapidated shams,"—was "called Yeh's House (in the Chinese city); and it was yet unfinished when the city was taken. The lattice-work is new; the paper which does duty for glass is unbroken; the grotesque decorations are fresh, and the whole place is clean." The houses generally presented "colossal courtyards, grass-grown and mildewy; habitations with space for an imperial army, but not safe to the tread of a single soldier; vast, empty, rotting halls, where bats, in thousands, were clinging to the roofs, and where the floors were inches deep in their ordure.

* This is the account given by the mandarin to Dr. Yvan: we borrow it from his entertaining and instructive work, *Inside of Canton.*

It was not destruction seen around, but decay." Such is the description given by Mr. Wingrove Cooke; who says, a few days after the city was occupied—he "passed two hours in the Tartar general's yamun, in the company of several English and French officers," whose business was to allot it for quarters. "After close inspection, they came to the conclusion that there were only two rooms fit for the dwelling of a civilised man." But, amidst these symptoms of decay, there were remains of taste and elegance seen on all hands, especially in the temples. In one, "occupied by a portion of the 59th regiment," there were "carvings and *bas reliefs*, of such elegance and beauty, that few things of the kind have ever been seen to surpass them."

In the Chinese city, were numerous shops, called by Mr. Cooke, "curiosity shops," which, when the English visited it, after its capture, "were spread with curious antiques of the newest fashions, and were victimising credulous lieutenants in a way which Mencius could not have approved." The crowd at that time did not "seem afraid," he tells us, "to manifest curiosity at the clothes and features of their European guests;" whom the shopkeepers invited into their shops, "with a politeness that proved they had no misgiving of any right of conquest being exercised, except a conquest by purchase." Our authority informs us, that the chief thoroughfares in the city abound in booksellers' stalls; and, at that time, they all exhibited "a small tract teaching the English numerals and a few phrases—the sounds being imitated in Chinese characters. People were reading this in all directions;" and Mr. Cooke "saw a lame beggar lying under the eaves of a house, and assiduously learning to beg in English!"

The suburbs form "the best, handsomest, richest, and most commercial part of Canton." There all foreigners reside; and there, a piece of ground, extending 800 feet along the banks of the river, and about 400 feet inland, was allotted for their factories, or *hongs*, as the Chinese termed the buildings; the word hong, according to Sir J. Davies, "being always used by them to denote a commercial establishment, or warehouse." The factories were ranged in rows, running from east to west. There were thirteen in all; and those in front, looking on the river, had a pleasant prospect: not so the back ones, whose look-out was anything but agreeable. "Some, indeed, were dark, prison-like blocks, that had to be reached by a dismal tunnel through the centre-ground storey; the rooms on either side of this passage being occupied by compradors and servants."* The French and Spanish factories were situated on the western side of the space allotted to foreigners; the British, Danish, American, and Austrian in the centre; and the East India Company's hong, also occupied by the British, on the east. The latter was the most architectural and graceful of all; being adorned with a portico and column, and having a pleasure-ground overlooking the river, inclosed with palisades, and called Respondentia Walk. The national colours were hoisted in front of each hong, and the Chinese gave them, as usual, poetical names. Thus the British factory was called "The Hong that ensures tranquillity:" the Austrian or Imperial building, had the epithet of the "Twin-Eagle;" the Danish, the "Yellow Flag," the American, the "Hong of extensive fountains," &c.

These factories were bounded on the east—we are, it will be observed, using the past tense, for they are now in ruins by the fortune of war, "not six inches of wall being left standing"—by a ditch, crossed by a narrow bridge with a single arch; and they were intersected by three streets—Old China-street, or T'sing-youen; New China-street, or Toung-wan; and Hog-lane, or San-taou-Lan. The latter was a disgusting receptacle of dissipation and vice—"a kind of low tavern," says Dr. Yvan, "into which the Chinese invited the sailors, to sell them, at a low price, adulterated and fetid spirits. The numerous shops in this dark passage were, at all hours, the theatre of the most disgusting and licentious scenes of drunkenness." According to the same authority, "the houses of Old and New China-streets consisted of only one storey, the greater part of which was occupied with stores." The shops were carefully lacquered and varnished; and the proprietors very stout, very fat, as yellow as ochre, dressed in long blue robes, and were constantly fanning themselves with screens of painted silk.†

Physic-street—into which the street of the "Thirteen Factories" opens on the north, and which traverses the suburbs from east to west for some distance*—affords a good idea of the appearances met with in a populous Chinese town. It obtained its name from the number of druggists' shops it contains; and many other traders also have their abode there, whose shops are all distinguished by really magnificent sign-boards. These edifices consist of a basement and a storey above. The basement contains a front and back shop, the latter serving as a store, or laboratory, and dining-room. Above is an open terrace and gallery, the latter containing a warehouse, in which reserves of the goods sold in the shop are deposited, and rooms for lumber, and sleeping. The terrace serves to air goods, to dust and purify them, and to dry plants. The economy of the front shop is very much like that of Europeans. A counter runs along one side, and across the top, behind which the tradesman is generally found; and he is polite and attentive to his customers. His family usually reside within the walled city, where he joins them at night. During the day this street, and most of the others in the suburbs, are so thronged with all classes—from the beggar to the mandarin—that locomotion is difficult: at night they are deserted by every one, except the watchmen; who, we are told, frequently sleep all night without being disturbed. When necessary, these Dogberries communicate with each other by striking a gong; and "the vibrations of their instruments, booming through the silence of the night, fill the air with a lugubrious harmony, which, on more than one occasion, has caused the traveller, recently arrived in the strange city, to shudder." The other streets in the suburbs very much resemble Physic-street, both with respect to the description of their houses, and the bustle and animation in them during the day. There are also many edifices in the suburbs, of a good—even elegant—description; in which European comfort and hospitality mingle with Chinese customs very agreeably.

We must not quit Canton without adverting to the pagodas; two of which, the Bright Pagoda and the Five Tower Pagoda, are amongst the most prominent objects in the city—whilst they abound in its vicinity; as, indeed, they do throughout China—

> Telling a tale of ancient mystery,
> And recalling visions of the forgotten past.

* The Rev. W. Milne.

† Dr. Yvan. The British factories will be rebuilt further to the eastward.

In Vol. I., in the preface to our account of the once-famed "Porcelain Tower" of Nanking, now "a thing of the past," we have remarked upon the uncertainty which prevails as to the introduction of pagodas into China, their origin not having been satisfactorily recorded. There is, however, little doubt but that the name is derived from the Sanscrit. It is applied to temples for religious worship in Hindostan and Thibet; and pagodas were, it is generally supposed, introduced into China, from India, subsequent to the Christian era, by the followers of Buddha. In Hindostan, these buildings are square, with towers attached. In China, there are also square pagodas; but they usually take the form of a simple tower, sometimes hexagonal, at others octagonal, and with from four and five to nine separate storeys. They vary in height from ten to 200 and 300 feet. Some of the smaller ones are supposed to be sepulchral monuments, but they are generally Buddhist temples; and images and altars to the false deity, with many curiosities, are deposited in their interiors. The images are usually richly gilt.

It has been remarked, that "there are very few spots in China, the surrounding scenery of which is complete without a full-sized or a miniature pagoda." The latter are almost universal in the gardens of the rich, and in the humble enclosures of the poor; the former raising the dwarf-like structures in marble or stone, whilst the latter will train a tree to the pagoda-shape, calling it the "*Pih-shoo-t'ah*," or the "*Hwang-yang-t'ah*," the "cypress," or the "box-wood pagoda."* The pagoda is also a popular toy and ornament. It is found in pictures and on fans; it is carved in wood and in ivory; and the pastrycook stamps it on his cakes and buns.

There are solid and hollow pagodas. The former are a mere mass of brickwork; the latter are built like other towers, and, however elevated, spiral staircases give access to the top. They are constructed of stone, of brick, and even of cast-iron. One built of this latter material stands on a hill in the neighbourhood of Chin-Kiang. Very often pagodas have a Buddhistic temple or monastery at their base; and the priests and nuns of Buddha are frequently buried in miniature pagodas. Their religious origin and aim, therefore, cannot be doubtful. But they have been used for other purposes—as watch-towers; for which they certainly are well calculated. They have, however, no doubt become so popular in China from their connection with religion, and the general opinion entertained by the Chinese, that they bring down the favour of Heaven upon the spot where they stand, and avert evil influences. It is believed that they cause the "five elements" (as the Chinese term fire, water, wood, earth, and metal) to become subservient to the wants of the people; and render "the soil productive, trade prosperous, and the natives submissive and happy." With this belief prevalent amongst the people, it is strange that no pagoda has been built in China for more than a hundred years. An attempt was made to obtain the means for erecting one at Macao, in 1821; but it was not carried out, though the Portuguese consul gave a hundred dollars towards the expense. In the proposal for erecting this edifice, it was stated that—

"The Chinese and foreign merchants have hitherto been prosperous, their wealth abounding, and the destinies of the place altogether felicitous. Of late, however, its fortunes have waxed lean, and the influence of the atmosphere has been unlucky, so that the acquisition of riches has been less certain. A proposal is accordingly made to erect a pagoda, in order to renovate and improve the commercial fortunes of the island on which Macao lies."

The most famous of these towers was that at Nanking, now destroyed. There is a similar building on the shore of the Pearl River, between Canton and the island of Whampoa, called the North-shore Pagoda, of which we give a representation in our engraving. There are several of these towers, five, seven, and nine storeys high, between Whampoa and Canton; and the "Bright Pagoda," in that city, is an object of great interest. It is supposed to have been built by the first Mohammedan merchants who visited Canton, with a view to conciliate the Buddhists.†

The water population of Canton has been alluded to in the "Introduction" to the first volume. The Pearl River, in its neighbourhood, carries on its waters a floating town, of which Dr. Yvan gives us the best description. This town is divided into quarters like London or Paris; and, like those capitals, has its commercial and fashionable streets. It has also its suburbs, consisting of long, narrow, winding streets, formed by lines of vessels called *tankas*, or "egg-house" boats—their shape resembling the longitudinal portion of an egg-shell. These suburbs are inhabited by fishermen, and labourers of all kinds; and during the day, according to Dr. Yvan, you never see a man in the labourers' boats. The male population is engaged in out-door work; whilst the women and children attend to domestic affairs. The fishermen live in a street by themselves; and—

"This street has certainly the most varied aspect of any in the universe. When the weather is fine, each habitation becomes detached from the one next it; and this part of the floating city is sometimes absent for days together. Then, when the fishing is over, the rising tide brings back the travelling abode to its starting-post, and the two rows of houses resume their place in the floating city. For the rest, on this liquid soil, the appearance of the streets changes every moment. A movement of the tide, a gust of wind, a sudden decrease in the pressure of the atmosphere, and the position of the town is completely altered. For instance, at the approach of a tempest, the large vessels turn round, and present to the wind the least assailable portion of their hull. The little boats gather together, and place themselves under the shelter of the large ones; and these changes are sufficient to render a quarter unrecognisable to a person who has passed through it only an instant before."‡

The private houses—those belonging to merchants and others, or which form public institutions—do not change their positions; and we shall again draw upon our authority (as the subject is novel to most readers) for a description of—

"These peaceful habitations, which are real houses, with only one side to the water, and placed on the hull of a vessel. Around them is a narrow space, where it is easy to walk, provided you are not giddy. The entrance is at the back, if there can be said to be a back. It is left wide open so as to let the air circulate freely; and the rooms have windows, furnished with nankeen blinds. The pediment of the outer door is adorned with sculpture, and with large characters written on red paper, or cut in relief. These inscriptions generally signify happiness, prosperity, longevity. The Chinese, who are naturally not very mystical, do not care for much beyond the happiness of this world. These trading districts, with their floating habitations painted with all kinds of colours, and adorned in artistic style, have really all the appearance of Chinese streets on dry land. The illusion, indeed, would be complete, were it not for the fact, that you proceed through them in a boat, when you may see the largest of the edifices agitated by the current, and the rise and fall of the waves."

* Milne's *China*. † *Vide* Milne's *China*. ‡ *Inside Canton*.

The interior of the floating residences are like those of other Chinese houses of the middle classes. Long strips of painted paper—some displaying flowers, others scenes from dramas, and others moral sentences (of exhibiting which the Chinese are particularly fond)—are suspended from the walls; tables are placed on each side of the receiving-rooms, and arm-chairs made of reed or wood, to accommodate the family and the guests.

Besides the private boats, there are mandarin, police, and other official vessels; and a description of boat—the scene, very frequently, of vice and licentiousness—which the Chinese call "houses of the four pleasures;" and Europeans, "flower-boats." They consist of the basement and an upper storey, the roof of which forms a terrace, usually furnished with tables and chairs. The basement is divided into small apartments, ornamented with not very decorous pictures, and each containing a table and chairs; some have also a bed. The upper storey is used merely as a cloak-room for visitors, and a store. Externally, these flower-boats are very beautiful, the entrance being covered with carving; the main body painted red, blue, or green, and the raised parts richly gilt: in front there are four lanterns, brilliantly painted; and, at the back, wave four lozenge-shaped streamers. "The terraces, vestibules, and staircases are decorated with large China vases, in which great bunches of flowers" (and hence Europeans call them flower-boats) "are constantly kept." These boats compose several streets of the floating city, and are its greatest ornament. At night it is high festival with them; and, generally, in the floating town, "song, revelry, and illumination" prevail after the sun goes down.

We will close the descriptive portion of "China," by devoting a brief space to the numerous classes of vessels found on the Tchon-Kiang, in addition to the floating town; and which may also be seen on most of the large rivers of the empire. Everybody has heard of one class of those vessels—the junks—a class used alike for warlike and commercial purposes. These vessels vary very considerably in size. We give the view of a large one, lying in the Canton river. It is a model of its class, and it will be seen, that they are somewhat of the fashion of the old Dutch ships. Looking at their sides, they have the crescent form, and in some the curve is so great, that they resemble the half-moon. They are flat-bottomed; both head and stern are square, the former being not quite so broad as the latter, which is open in the middle, to admit the huge rudder, and shelter it from the beating of the waves. In front are two enormous eyes, intended to denote caution and vigilance. The large junks have, generally, two oars, projecting forwards, for the purpose of accelerating the evolution of "tacking" the vessel. The hold is divided into various compartments, perfectly independent of each other; and one or more might become filled with water, without damage to the rest. They carry two and three masts, each composed of a single piece of timber. The fore and main-masts bear huge, square sails—that on the mizen is pointed like the sail of an English cutter or sloop. These sails are made of matting, and are strengthened by split bamboos, put across, about two feet from each other; the operation of reefing or furling is performed by means of ropes attached to the end of these bamboos. The anchors are made of a hard, heavy wood, called *Tie-mau; i. e.*, "Iron-wood," with which metal their ends are tipped. The junks are not good sailers—the sails, from the use of the bamboo rods, being stiff, and not yielding readily to the gale. Often on the decks of the trading junks small cabins are built, extending from end to end. They are six or seven feet in height; are frequently very handsomely decorated; and are always so commodious, that a long voyage may be pleasantly performed.

But the junks form only one out of numerous classes of vessels,* the names of many being unknown to us; for, as Sir John Bowring remarks, "the immense variety of boats which abound in Chinese waters have never been adequately described;" and we think most travellers have paid too little attention to Chinese maritime affairs. Recent events have made us familiar with the *lorcha*, called by the Chinese the "fai-ting," because it is a fast sailer. There are, also, the *sampan*, used fort he inland conveyance of goods and passengers, which is steered with sculls, and pushed along by the aid of long bamboo poles; and the *snake-boat*, which glides swiftly, yet almost imperceptibly, through the waters—hence its name. The row-boats are "legion." Some are called *Fast Crabs*, others *Scrambling Dragons*, and others *Centipedes*. They are from thirty to seventy feet long, are impelled through the water by from twenty-five to thirty or thirty-five pair of oars, and the latter class derive their name from being supposed to have a hundred rowers. Many of these boats belong to smugglers; their crews are well armed with guns and shields; and when likely to encounter hostilely any of the mandarin boats, the shields are lashed along the bulwarks, to present an obstacle to boarding. These mandarin boats, on the Canton river—

"Are large barks, light and long, with an elegant pavilion in the middle, the carved roof of which is ornamented with flowers and fantastic animals. They are distinguished from other vessels floating on the river by streamers, on which the titles of the proprietors are written. In the evening, lanterns, covered with characters, replace the insignia of official vanity, and have the same effect."†

It is worthy of remark, that, in every boat (as well as in every private dwelling) in China, is a little Joss-house, for the purpose of allowing the Chinese an opportunity of performing their devotions, which often consist of burning incense and discharging crackers. "Joss" is a corruption of the Portuguese "Dios," God; "Joss-house" means, therefore, God's house; and "chin-chin," or "ching-ching Joss," means to worship the deity whom the Chinese adore.

We now close our descriptive and archæological account of China, and shall proceed to give a brief but clear narrative of the principal events in the history of the country.

* In the annexed "View on a River near Canton," several of the different kinds of vessels used by the natives are seen.

† Dr. Yvan.

THE

HISTORY OF CHINA;

FROM THE

EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME.

SECT. I.—FROM THE ORIGIN OF THE EMPIRE TO THE LATE WAR.

THE illustrations we have given of Chinese Arts and Sciences, and of the Manners and Customs of the Chinese people, will be appropriately followed by a brief but succinct narrative of the history of the empire, of which, till recently, even our best scholars professed to know little; whilst the great mass of readers, well-informed as they were on most other points, were entirely iguorant of it.

The origin of the Chinese is involved in obscurity. They are supposed, says Mr. Montgomery Martin, "to be a branch of the great Scythian family," who drove out the aborigines and settled in their place: but the Chinese, themselves, imagine that their ancestors lived in the country ages before the flood. Their empire, they say, is the offspring of Heaven, or "Yang," and the Earth, "Yin,"—who, once united, were separated many thousand years ago. Puan-koo, or Pwan-koo, the first sovereign after this separation, lived between heaven and earth, was clothed in an apron of leaves, held the sun and moon in his hands, and reigned, according to some of their traditions, 45,000 years. Others give 18,000 years as the length of the reigns of the early kings; and when, in process of time, the reigns of nine sovereigns extended over a space of only 45,600 years, they thought that the length of human life was dwindled to a span. Attempts have been made to reconcile this part of Chinese chronology with that of Scripture, by supposing that the space called a year was, in reality, a natural day: but it is much more probable that the whole is a fable. Indeed, one of their own commentators affirms, that "it is impossible to give entire credit to the accounts of remote ages."

From Fo-hi, the Chinese annalists are less extravagant. They affirm, that this personage was identical with Noah. The mountain of Ararat, on which we are told, by the sacred historian, the ark of Noah rested after the flood,* and which is generally supposed to be in Armenia, is, according to Chinese authority, one of the eastern mountains of Asia; and they tell us, that "Noah followed the tracks of the large rivers of Chiua, which flowed southward, as leading to a fertile and open country, and became the founder of the present Chinese monarchy." Dr. Shuckford, in his *Connection of Sacred and Profane History*, defends this hypothesis of the Chinese annalists, by the statement in Genesis, that the builders of the tower of Babel had journeyed *from the east* to the plain of Shinar.† This could scarcely be said of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood of the Armenian Ararat, as that mountain, which lies several degrees to the north of the site of Babel, is in the same degree of east longitude. Others, who think the Chinese have reason on their side in identifyiug Fo-hi with Noah, but who adhere to the popular opinion as to the situation of Ararat, suppose that the patriarch—disgusted with the conduct of those who, at Babel, thought to build themselves a tower which would reach to the clouds, defying the Great Creator of Heaven and Earth—left his descendants whom he could not rule, with a small number of adherents, aud travelling eastward, at last reached China, where he pitched his tent, attracted by the appearance of the country. There certainly are many plausible reasons adduced—from the great population of China, which shows that the country must have beeu occupied at a very early period—from the purity of the ancient worship of the Chinese—their civilisation when all around was barbarous—and from their knowledge of the useful arts as well as of science, in many instances nearly assimilating to that of the Jews—for faith iu the tradition which makes Noah and Fo-hi oue. At all events, from the time of the latter, the Chinese annals take a determinate form, though, for many centuries, we can only deem them to be perfectly apocryphal.

Following the Bible chronology, we find that the Deluge occurred A.M. 1656, being 2,348 years before Christ. It continued till the latter end of 2347 B.C.; but those who suppose that Noah did not migrate to China till after the determination of his descendants to build the tower of Babel, fix his arrival in that country 2114 B.C. There "he settled his colony in the province of Shan-see, and established among the colonists the religion, laws, aud government, and imparted to them all the branches of learning, he had received from his antediluvian ancestors." He died in the 115th year after his arrival, and in the 950th of his age, being 1998 B.C.—His successor, Shin-nong or Xin-nung, or "the Divine Husbandman," paid particular attention to the instruction of his people in agriculture, and their improvement in all those arts and sciences of which Fo-hi had sown the seeds. He reigned 140 years. His successor, Whang-ti or Hoang-ti, is celebrated as the inventor of the Chinese arithmetic, and other arts, and also as paving the way for the introduction of the mariner's compass! When at war with a

* Gen. viii. 4. † Gen. xi. 2.

chief named "Tchi-Yean, perceiving that thick fogs saved the enemy from his pursuit, and that the soldiers rambled out of the way and lost the course of the wind, he made a car, which, having a magnetic pole attached to it that always pointed south, showed them the four cardinal points; by this means, he took the enemy, made him prisoner, and put him to death."* In his reign, Ta-Yaou invented the Chinese cycle of sixty years, by which they compute, instead of the century of a hundred: they carry their computations back by means of this cycle, according to some chronologists, 2,700 years B.C. Hoang-ti reigned a hundred years; and three other sovereigns —Chwen-hyo, Ti-ko, and Chi, whose united reigns extended over 232 years, bring us to Yau or Yu, in whose reign some historians say a deluge occurred, the circumstances of which resemble those of Noah's; but he appears to have been contemporary with Joshua: and the annalists notice a similar phenomenon to that recorded in the Sacred Scripture, when the sun stood still in the valley of Ajalon;† only, instead of twenty-four hours, they say that the sun did not go down for ten days.

These annalists enumerate twenty-two dynasties; and give us the names of all the sovereigns of each. There is not a unanimous agreement, however, as to when the first dynasty, that of Hia, commenced. Some fix it 2700 B.C.; others 2207 B.C.; and others again say, that it originated with Yu, who, supposing Noah and Fo-hi to have been the same, could not have begun to reign till 1528 B.C. The names of seventeen sovereigns are given as comprised in this dynasty; and there were twenty-eight in the second—that of Xam. Some of these forty-five kings are described as very amiable, others as very vicious; and both dynasties are said to have owed their extinction to the vices of the last kings and their queens. As to the state of the country, whilst we find in some Chinese histories, accounts of arts invented, industry encouraged, and cities and towns built, by the immediate successors of Fo-hi, we meet with a very different picture in others. Meng-tse, who says Yu founded the first dynasty, tells us, that the country was then a desert; and he had to "set fire to the forests, in order to clear the ground, and drive the wild animals off." The people had no fixed dwellings; but sheltered themselves from the serpents and dragons that infested the land, in trees when in the low countries, and, when on the mountains, in caves. Another historian, Ma-twau-lin, describes things as much improved under the kings of the second dynasty, in whose territories, he says, there were 3,000 chieftainships, and 1,773 principalities.

The first sovereign of the third dynasty—that of Chew or Chow—obtained the supreme authority over these various dependencies 1,122 years B.C., according to the native historians: but the Abbé Guignes, a French antiquarian, after an examination of both the Chinese and Egyptian genealogies, affirms, that China was only peopled in that year by a colony from Egypt; and that the Chinese chronology, up to this time, was, in fact, that of Egypt—the kings represented as reigning over China, being, in reality, the Theban monarchs of the former country. We must leave this question in doubt, as it cannot now be decided; and, referring again to the native annals, we find that there were thirty-five kings of the Chow race. In the latter half of the term assigned to their sovereignty, the authentic history of China may be said to commence with the era of Confucius (Koong-foo-tsze, the Chinese call him.) He was born B.C. 551, in the reign of the twenty-third sovereign, Ling Vang, who is said to have come into the world with hair on his head, and a beard on his chin, and to have been famous for the wisdom and prudence with which he governed his people. The philosopher was born in the province of Shan-tung, then called the kingdom of Lu, in the twenty-first year of Ling Vang's reign. He evinced, from his earliest years, many tokens of a wise and good disposition; and, about the age of fifteen, he devoted himself to the study of the ancient books of his native country. He married at the early age of nineteen; his sons and descendants rose to distinction; and members of his family still exist, being mandarins of the highest class. All accounts of Confucius agree in stating that he was one of those reformers whose career has been fraught with benefits to his race. He was, before he had attained what we consider in Europe to be the age of discretion, employed under the government of the king of Lu—one of the numerous petty states into which China appears at that time to have been divided; but at the age of twenty-four he gave up his appointments, in order that he might devote himself to a project he appears to have formed, of promulgating a new system of religion and morality, to correct the state of licentiousness and disorder that prevailed; and his ethics are certainly founded upon much purer principles than those of most heathen philosophers. Acknowledging one First Principle, he spoke of it as the "most pure and perfect Essence—the author of all things"—the punisher of vice, the never-failing rewarder of virtue. The duty which men owed to this "Great First Cause," and to each other, he developed in six books; the four first of which contain the purest moral doctrines; and the two last treat of the duties of children to parents. Whilst the former are forgotten or neglected by the degenerate Chinese, the precepts of the latter are universally observed. There is no country where filial piety is made so prominent a feature in its political and domestic economy. "The vital, and universally operating principle of the Chinese government," says Sir George Staunton, "is the duty of submission to parental authority." It is, says their *Book of Sacred Instructions*, "a doctrine from heaven—the consummation of earthly justice—the grand principle of action among mankind." The emperor, as the "Father of his people," is considered entitled to the most implicit obedience; and the principle of filial piety regulates the duty to magistrates and to each other. "In our general conduct," says the Book just quoted, "not to be orderly; in serving the sovereign, not to be faithful; in acting as a magistrate, not to be useful; in the intercourse of friends, not to be sincere; in arms and in war, not to be brave, is to fail in filial piety." Whilst the penalty for cursing or striking a parent is death, the fathers have virtually the power of life and death over their children; there being no punishment for beating them however severely: the punishment for what we should call the manslaughter of a child, is only a hundred blows with the bamboo; that for murder, sixty blows and a year's imprisonment.

Besides his moral and philosophical works, Confucius wrote several historical ones; and as he advanced in years, he again entered into the public service. Finding, after some time, that he could not effect the reforms in

* Du Halde. † Joshua x. 12, 13.

morals at which he aimed, he threw up his employments and travelled, stopping, from want of means, in the kingdom of Shing. There he acted as a public and private instructor, and gathered round him a number of disciples, who, when he died, built him a handsome sepulchre on the river Su, near the city of Kyo-few, which is still preserved, having been enclosed by a wall. He was in his 73rd year when he died; and his memory has always been held in the highest respect by the Chinese.*

There is no doubt, but that, in the time of Confucius, what is called the Chinese empire was merely a collection of petty states, under "wangs," or kings, who acknowledged the suzerainty of one of their number—a suzerainty maintained in one family, till it was lost by misconduct or by misfortune, and seized upon by another. The people appear to have advanced in arts and sciences beyond their neighbours; but their history presents little more than might be expected from the quarrels of predatory chiefs. After the death of Confucius, discord and slaughter prevailed to a great extent: and it is remarked, that "this period may be termed 'the dark ages' of China." Not only were the "wangs" or kings at war amongst themselves, but the Tartars and the Huns—the latter, a fierce and warlike nation, which occupied Eastern Tartary, and the immense plains beyond the Oxus for nearly 1,200 years—made repeated inroads. At length the king of Tsin succeeded in supplanting the third dynasty, and founding the fourth, B.C. 248. The first "wang" of this dynasty—Chwang-Syang-Vang—was unfortunate. Several of the chiefs formed a confederacy against him, and he was defeated. His death followed soon after; when his adopted son, Chi-Hoang-Ti (or first emperor) ascended the throne; and is regarded as being the first sovereign to whom that title is really attributable. Private ambition and jealousy caused the "wangs" to dissolve their confederacy, and quarrel among themselves. Chi-Hoang-Ti defeated them in detail; and as they succumbed one after another to his arms, he sought to secure his conquests by slaughtering all the males of their families. One of the chiefs, the king of Tsi, he shut up in a park planted with nothing but pine-trees, where the unfortunate man was starved to death. This emperor made so many conquests, that he was enabled to divide his empire into thirty-six provinces, and he caused order and peace to take the place of anarchy and war. As the Huns still continued their incursions, to which the northern provinces of Pe-chee-lee, Shan-see, and Shen-see were greatly exposed, he first sent a large army, and drove the invaders far beyond the frontiers; and then built the Great Wall,† to put a stop to their future invasions. Whilst this work was going on, he constructed, in the interior of his empire, a road 600 miles long, and greatly improved his capital at Hecu-yong. Success seems to have imbued Chi-Hoang-Ti with inordinate pride. He was instigated with a desire not only to be the first sovereign of his age, but to be considered the first of all ages; and he issued a decree, ordering his subjects, under pain of death, to burn all the records of preceding kings, with the writings of Confucius and other philosophers, in order that the history of those who had lived before him might be destroyed. So rigidly was this decree carried out, that it is averred upwards of 500 persons were buried alive, for refusing to destroy the books in their possession. Others, professing obedience, burnt some of their books, and buried the remainder, which saw the light again under more favourable auspices. Thus, years after the death of Chi-Hoang-Ti, the works of Confucius were discovered by some workmen, when repairing a house. Some authorities, however, tell us, that the Chinese histories, up to this period, *were* all destroyed; and that the ancient history of the country was re-written in the reign of Chi-Hoang-Ti's successor, from the dictation of an old man, who pretended that he had committed the narratives of the historians to memory.

Three monarchs of the Tsin dynasty reigned after Chi-Hoang-Ti; the first of whom, Shi-whang-Ti, established profound peace in his empire. His successors were involved in domestic strife, and the dynasty was finally subverted by Lieu-Pang. This fortunate man, who was originally a private soldier, became the head of a band of robbers. He was bold and courageous, eloquent and active; and during the reign of Eul-shi—the last emperor but one of the Tsin family—a rebel general having aimed at gaining the province of Tsin for himself, the governor sought his aid, as a leader of free lances, to put down the rebellion. Lien-Pang was successful; he defeated the rebels; and when he went to the governor for his reward, he found the gates of the city of Tsiu shut against him. He immediately attacked the place and captured it. The governor being killed in the action, the inhabitants offered their allegiance to the victor, who from that day cherished hopes of becoming emperor—a dignity, say the annals, it had been predicted he would attain by a great physiognomist, who, as a proof that he believed his prediction, gave him his daughter in marriage. After much fighting—sometimes in alliance with some of the minor princes, at others depending entirely on his own resources, and, at last, in a severe contest with another aspiring general named Heang-tse—Lieu-Pang finally succeeded. He seized the imperial city Heen-yong, which he delivered up to his troops to be plundered, commanding them, however, to offer no ill-treatment to the inhabitants. He took possession of the palace, where he found an immense treasure; and, proclaiming himself emperor, became, 206 B.C., the founder of the dynasty of Han. Heang-tse continued his resistance, and was at one time so successful, that he seized and burnt the imperial city and palace. Again defeated, he put an end to his existence; and then the states of the empire were convoked, and acknowledged Lien-Pang as emperor, under the name of Kaou-te, or Kaou-tsoo.

The Han dynasty continued for 426 years, and gave twenty-seven sovereigns to China. This period has been characterised, as "one of the most celebrated in Chinese history;" and, undoubtedly, many memorable events occurred during its progress. In the reign of the third emperor, Ven-ti, a wise and virtuous prince, the empire recovered much of its splendour; arts and industry were fostered; and paper was invented. The fifth emperor, Woo-te, who began to reign B.C. 141, had great success against the Tartars, who had passed the wall, and devastated the country. He gained four victories over them, drove them beyond the wall, and then carried his successful arms into Pegu, Siam, Camboya, and Bengal, where he made many conquests, which he divided amongst his generals and other officers. Three terrible events marked the reign of Woo-te. The Hoang-hoo

* Mencius, another celebrated learned Chinese, flourished a few years after Confucius.

† See vol. i., pp. 17—20.

river burst its banks, and caused an immense destruction of property and of human life; the cultivated lands were laid bare by a visitation of locusts, which produced a famine; and a fire destroyed the imperial palace, with the greater part of the city where the emperor resided. In the reign of Suen-te, grandson to Woo-te, and the seventh emperor, the Indian princes, subdued by his grandfather, revolted. He would have sent an army against them, but for the advice of his ministers. They told him the blood of his subjects was dearer than conquests, and that those who refused the blessing of his wise government, were unworthy of it. He listened to their representations, and kept his army at home. In his reign there were several "dreadful earthquakes, which rent mountains asunder, filled up valleys, and spread universal terror through the whole superstitious nation."

Ching-te, the tenth sovereign, died, according to the Chinese annalists, in the year in which the Saviour of mankind was born. His successor, Ping-te, was styled "The Prince of Peace"—a "remarkable title," as has been observed, to be given to the sovereign who began to reign at the commencement of the Christian era. In the reign of Ming-ti, the fifteenth emperor (A.D. 58), Buddhism was introduced into China. In that of Ho-ti, the seventeenth monarch, the empire was distracted by Tartar invasions, and devastated by drought, famine, and plague. This monarch is said to have had considerable intercourse with the West; and his messengers, we are told, reached Arabia. He introduced the eunuchs into China, who were such a fertile source of trouble to his successors; particularly during the reigns of the two last sovereigns of the house of Han, who had also to contend with rebels called Hoang-Kin, or Yellow Caps; and swarms of robbers, by whom the country was greatly devastated. A Chinese historian, Ma-twan-lin, says, "the fields were covered with human skeletons, and great numbers of people were killed." How-te, or Hyen-ti, the last sovereign, was engaged in perpetual wars; and at last abdicated, A.D. 220; and closed the Han dynasty, the memory of which is still cherished in China—where to be "a son of Han," is considered as the type of everything that is honourable and great. The territory ruled by the sovereigns of this dynasty is supposed to have been equal to about one-half of what is now considered as China proper.

During the Han dynasty, a colony of Jews entered China, and their descendants are still found there. They live at Kaifung, about 600 miles from Shanghai. In 1850, a mission was sent from the latter place to Kaifung, to make inquiries respecting this colony. When the messengers returned, two Chinese Jews accompanied them, who differed in nothing, except religious profession, from the Chinese themselves. They spoke, dressed, and talked like the natives; and, it was ascertained, that outside the gateway of the synagogue at Kaifung, tablets are fixed, on which the transmission of the Jewish religion from Adam is recorded, and the entrance of that religion into China during the Han dynasty. During the same dynasty, there were several instances of foreign intercourse with China. A.D. 159, the king of India is said to have sent an embassy to the emperor, Chen-ti, with rare presents. In the year A.D. 166, when Whan-ti, the brother of Chen-ti, was on the throne, a Roman embassy, from Marcus Antoninus, arrived. And in 176, also, in the reign of Whan-ti, we are told, that India and other nations sent tribute. At this time, Canton became the emporium for foreigners, who arrived by the "southern sea;" and established an intercourse with the empire. Probably, from this intercourse with foreigners, civilisation, if not introduced into China, was considerably developed; for we find that, under the reign of the latter sovereigns of the Han family, the condition of both emperors and people was greatly improved. A memorial—addressed by a minister of Whan-ti, to his imperial master—draws a contrast between the "pomp and ceremony" of his appointments, and those of one of his predecessors, Woo-te. Of the latter, it is said, "his nether garment was of leather; a common strap served to hold his sword; his seat was a common mat; his house had no rich or handsome furniture; his only ornaments were his wisdom and his virtue." But, continues the minister, speaking of the then emperor, "Your palace is a city; your women are covered with diamonds and jewels; your horses are richly harnessed; your dogs have rich collars; and, even to the vessels of wood and clay, all are covered with ornaments. You have cast balls of great size, your drums emulate thunder, to say nothing of your dramas, concerts, and dances." The memorial also touches upon the licentiousness and intemperance generally prevalent; and this, perhaps, led to the tax on wines, first imposed by some of the Han sovereigns.

In the Chinese annals, the sixth dynasty—that of Hou-han, or "the latter family of Han"—is said to have commenced on the death of How-te; and they give that dynasty two emperors, Lew-pei and How-te. The empire was, however, at that period, divided into three kingdoms—that of Goei, in the north; that of Yeu in the south; and that of Sho-hang in the west. In the native histories, this period is termed that of Jan-kno, or "Three States;" and the Chinese dramatists and romancists frequently resort to it for the plots of their novels and plays. It was a very disturbed period; and the intrigues of the queens and the eunuchs produced so much evil, that a law was passed, that "Queens should neither reign nor assist in public matters." In the reign of How-te, one of his generals, named Long-chau, raised the standard of revolt. He was at the head of a large army, and having obtained several successes, he determined to aim at the empire. Chiefly through the pusillanimity of How-te—who would not take the advice of his son and give the rebel battle—he dispersed and cut to pieces the imperial army, seized and plundered the palace, took How-te prisoner, and banished him to a small principality, where he lived seven years in obscurity. The son of Long-chau—called, in some accounts, Shi-tsu-vu-ti, in others Sze-ma-yen—succeeded How-te, and established the capital in his own province, Hoo-nan. The dynasty he established is called Tsin; but the name in Chinese is said to be differently spelled and pronounced, and to have quite an opposite signification, to that of the fourth dynasty, also translated Tsin.*

This seventh dynasty commenced A.D. 265; it comprised fifteen sovereigns, and continued 155 years. Most of the reigns were disturbed by internal wars. In that of Hwuy-te, the second sovereign, who reigned from A.D. 289 to A.D. 306, the kings of Tsi and Han rebelled, and the former was in a fair way of seizing the imperial crown. He was, however, killed in battle. Ywen-ti, the fifth sovereign (A.D. 316 to A.D. 322), removed his court

* Du Halde.

from the west to the east, fixing the seat of government in the city of Nanking.—During the succeeding reigns of the dynasty, the petty kings occasioned great troubles; and a separate kingdom was formed in the north in A.D. 386. The two last emperors—Gan-te and Kung-te—were both assassinated, within a few years of each other, by Lew-yu or Woo-tee, who, in A.D. 420, founded the eighth (the Sung or Song) dynasty, which, in fifty-nine years, gave eight emperors to China. With the exception of Wan-te or Venti, the third monarch (A.D. 423—453), these princes are all described as being "weak and trifling," or of "a bloody disposition." Wan-te, we are told, "was much admired for his meekness, justice, and integrity." Yet he grew so jealous of his prime minister and general, Tau-tau-tsi, who won many battles for him, that he caused him to be put to death. After that, the northern princes renewed the war, and Wan-te's troops were defeated in several battles; "one, especially, was fought in the twenty-sixth year of his reign, with such dreadful slaughter on both sides, that the fields were overflowed with Chinese blood." Wan-te was murdered by his eldest son, in the thirtieth year of his reign; and the murderer met the same fate at the hands of his brother. Of the remaining five sovereigns of this dynasty, three were assassinated.

The two last monarchs were murdered by a traitor named Seaou-teaou-Ching, who founded the ninth dynasty, called Tsi; commencing his reign A.D. 479. He appears to have been a good sovereign, though he ascended the throne in so unjustifiable a manner. In the reign of his son, Woo-te (A.D. 483—494), an impious philosopher, named Fan-chin, appeared. He taught, that all the events in the world were the effects of mere chance; that the soul is not immortal, but expires with the body; and that the state of men after death is the same as that of the brutes. These doctrines are still professed, though secretly, chiefly by the Chinese *literati;* many of that class, however, have come forward to refute them.

The tenth, or Laam (written also Leang) dynasty, like the two preceding ones, was founded by a usurper and murderer, Seaou-Yeu, or Leang Woo-te, A.D. 502. He assassinated the two last emperors of the ninth dynasty; but is described, after he gained the crown, as "learned, martial, and austere." He ruled with moderation, success attended his measures, and he had attained great popularity, when, in the twenty-sixth year of his reign, he turned superstitious, and became a bonze; he then entirely neglected state affairs, and forbade the killing of oxen and sheep, even for sacrifices, ordering corn to be offered instead of the animals. He was seized by Hew-king, the king of Hoo-nan, his vassal and tributary, who gradually starved him to death. His son mounted the throne, and was also put to death by Hew-king, who assumed the imperial title; but was, in his turn, defeated by the minister of Yuen-te, the youngest son of the founder of the dynasty. Hew-king was beheaded; and the minister of Yuen-te (Chin-pa-seen) subsequently revolted himself, and besieged Nanking. He had a large army, and Yuen-te, thinking all was lost, ordered his library—said to consist of 140,000 volumes—to be burnt, saying, "there was an end of all science and military art." The minister triumphed; slew Yuen-te, and also his son, who succeeded him; and the tenth dynasty ended A.D. 558, having given China four emperors.

The next dynasty—that of Kin or Chin (A.D. 558—590)—numbered five; and the twelfth, called Soui or Suy (A.D. 596—619), only three emperors. The former was founded by the rebellious minister, Chin-pa-seen; and the latter by another rebel, Yang-keen, who changed his name, on assuming the imperial dignity, to Kau-tsu-vew-ti. He reunited the northern and southern empires, which had been divided upwards of 200 years; and his solid, penetrating judgment, his moderation and temperance, gained him the love of his subjects. "He reformed music and rhetoric," say the annalists, "of all that was soft and enervating; caused a certain portion of corn and rice to be levied on his subjects, for the support of the poor in times of famine; was very severe with the judges who suffered themselves to be corrupted; excluded merchants and mechanics from public employments; and made a law which punished petty larcenies with death, which he subsequently repealed, as it was deemed too severe." His son and successor, Yang-kwan, was the first sovereign who prohibited the Chinese from carrying arms about them; an ordinance which is still in force. He nominated a hundred of the most learned men to revise and reprint all books treating of war, politics, physic, and agriculture; he also founded the degree of doctor. This sovereign was assassinated when making a tour of the southern provinces, in the thirteenth year of his reign; and his son, Yang-te, was crowned and dethroned in the same year, by a rebel named Lay-nen or Li-ywen, who founded the thirteenth dynasty, called Tam, or Tang.—During the twelfth dynasty, ambassadors were regularly exchanged between China and Japan; and diplomatic intercourse was opened with several other neighbouring nations.

Li-ywen commenced his reign A.D. 619; and twenty emperors of his family sat on the throne, their reigns continuing for 289 years. The second emperor, Tay-tsong (A.D. 628—651), is esteemed by the Chinese to have been one of their best monarchs. He evinced great wisdom; was kind to those who gave him good counsel, or told him of his faults; practised frugality and temperance; evinced a great love of learning; was a severe enemy to corrupt judges; and very thoughtful in providing for his subjects. In his eighth year, "some white men, with fair hair and blue eyes," came on an embassy to China; and Tay-tsong gave them a gracious reception. They are supposed to have been Christians, and to have brought with them a noble monumental marble tablet, ten feet long and six broad; on the top of which was cut a cross, and below it was the following inscription, no doubt put there by the command of the monarch:—"A man of Judea, of exemplary virtue, arrived at our court; we have examined his doctrine, and found it worthy of admiration, and without any mixture of pride, and built upon principles which suppose that the world had a beginning. His law, which teaches the way of salvation, cannot but be extremely beneficial to our subjects. I therefore judge it necessary that it be taught to them." This monument was dug up A.D. 1625. There appears to be no doubt from it, that Tay-tsong permitted Christianity to be preached in his dominions; and allotted a piece of ground in the imperial city to build a Christian church. The latter part of the reign of the seventh emperor, Heun-tsung, or Yivn-tsong (A.D. 713—757), was disturbed by a rebellion in the north. Its author was a foreign prince named Ngan-lo-shau, whom the emperor had greatly

favoured, and raised to the command of his army. He was partially successful, and compelled his imperial master to fly into the province of Sze-chouen. His son, So-tsong, mounted the throne, and the rebels were ultimately subdued—not, however, before Ngan-lo-shan had plundered the imperial palace of all its riches. In the reign of a second Tay-tsong, the eighth emperor (A.D. 763—780), the Tartars, to the number of 200,000, made an irruption into the empire, and carried off an immense treasure. Ko-tsu-i, the general of this emperor, is said to have been a great patron of the Christians. The reigns of six succeeding princes (A.D. 780—841) offer scarcely anything worthy of remark. The Tartars appear to have again entered the empire; for Vu-tsong, the fifteenth emperor, is said to have driven them out of the province of Shan-see, where they had fortified themselves. This prince ordered the mandarins of the provinces to send an account to the emperor, every five or seven years, of their miscarriages, and to beg his pardon for them: he is also said to have suppressed the Christians, whom several of his predecessors had favoured. The reigns of his successors were troubled by the intrigues of the eunuchs, and the devastations of robbers and rebels; and the dynasty ended with Cheaou-Suen-te. He reigned only two years, when he resigned the crown to Chu-ven, a rebel who had put his father to death.

Chu-ven, in A.D. 907, founded the fourteenth dynasty, called How-leang, which had only two emperors, and lasted sixteen years—a period said to surpass all former ones in anarchy, rebellion, and their consequences; and during which the Tartars made themselves masters of a considerable portion of the Chinese territory, establishing an independent government. The dynasty of How-tang succeeded. It included four emperors, who reigned only thirteen years. The third emperor, Min-tsong, an active and beneficent sovereign, was murdered, A.D. 935, by his son-in-law, She-king-tang; and his son, Min-te, finding himself unable to make head against the murderer, shut himself, his family, and everything he had of value, up in a palace, in the city of Ghey-chew, and setting the building on fire, all perished in the flames. To Min-te is ascribed the introduction of that practice which is common in China to this day—the binding and bandaging the toes of female children under the soles of the feet, so as to check their growth, and give them a diminutive appearance.

The sixteenth dynasty—How-tsin—had two emperors, who reigned eleven years (from A.D. 936 to 947); the seventeenth—the How-han—of two emperors, continued only four years; and the eighteenth—How-chow—of three emperors, nine years. Tay-tsu, the first emperor of the last-named dynasty, removed his court to the capital of the province of Hoo-nan. Some historians say, that the Mohammedans first settled in China in his reign; while others affirm, that they came during the thirteenth dynasty. During the five last-named dynasties, rebellions, murders, and incessant Tartar wars prevailed; and most of the sovereigns were extremely imbecile. Kong-ti, the last, was only seven years old when his father (one of the best princes of the five dynasties) died. He had been left to the guardianship of the prime minister, Chau-quang-yu, who had rendered signal services to the empire during the wars of the previous sovereign. The grandees did not like to have an infant rule over them, and they resolved to raise the minister to the throne. When they waited upon Chau-quang-yu to acquaint him with their choice, they found him in bed. They clothed him in a yellow robe; and hence yellow became the imperial colour. A small principality was assigned to Kong-ti; and his successor, taking the name of Tay-tsu, founded the nineteenth—the Sung or Song—dynasty, A.D. 960.

In that dynasty eighteen emperors were included, who reigned 319 years. Its founder, Tay-tsu, kept his court in the northern provinces of China, as did eight of his successors. This enabled them more easily to repress the incursions of the Tartars; and the empire began to recover from the depression which the long-continued internal wars and dissensions, and the repeated incursions of foreign enemies across the frontiers, had occasioned. Tay-tsu is said to have possessed all the princely qualities which could make a people happy and flourishing; and so great was his fame for wisdom and moderation, that ten petty princes submitted to him. In the early part of his reign, when his army was engaged in opposing the northern enemy, during very severe weather, "he pulled off his fur gown, and sent it to the general, telling him, that he wished it was in his power to do the like for every soldier: it is hardly to be conceived," says the historian, "what ardour and zeal were inspired in his army by this action." His successor, Tae-tsung (A.D. 977—998), was a great lover of learning, and founded a library, which is said to have contained 80,000 volumes. He was continually engaged in wars with the Tartars, with fluctuating success. His general, Chang-tsi-hien, strongly urged him against these wars, advising him to completely pacify his empire before he aimed at conquests. His successor, Chin-tsung (A.D. 998—1023), made an inglorious peace with one body of Tartars, agreeing to pay them annually 100,000 taels, and 200,000 pieces of silk. The reigns of most of the succeeding emperors of this dynasty were more or less disturbed by Tartar irruptions. These persevering and daring barbarians came from the west and the north; and the eighth sovereign of the dynasty, Hway-tsung, formed an alliance with the Mandshur, or Kin tribe, who agreed to drive out those of their nation who had obtained possession of the territory called Leaou-tung. This they did effectually; and then, turning their arms against their ally, they took him and his empress prisoners, A.D. 1125, and the former died a captive. His son, Prin-tsung, succeeded him; in whose reign the Tartars took possession of the province and the palace of Hoo-nan; and his brother, Kaoou-tsung, who ascended the throne in 1127, removed his court to Hang-choo, the capital of the province of Che-kiang.

Kaoou-tsung, and his two successors, Haeou-tsung and Kwan-tsung, were harassed and pressed upon by their untiring enemies during the whole of their reigns; and Ning-tsung, who began to reign about A.D. 1194, resolved to call in the aid of the Mongol Tartars—who inhabited the countries extending from the north-western provinces of China to Thibet and Samarcand—to enable him to subdue those of the Kin tribe. The Mongols were the most warlike, ambitious, and fierce barbarians of the entire Tartar race. At this time, they were led by the celebrated Genghis or Jinghis Khan, the son of a petty Mongolian prince, who had, by his valour and abilities, raised himself to be the head of his people. It had been predicted, that he would be the greatest of the Tartar khans; and the name Genghis Khan, "Greatest King," was conferred upon him by acclamation. He

readily complied with Ning-tsung's application for assistance; and his army entering China, was soon employed not only against the Kin Tartars, but the Chinese themselves. After several years of strife, Genghis Khan became master, in A.D. 1212, of the two provinces of Shan-see and Shen-see. The emperor then made a peace on the best terms he could; but the Tartar rapacity was not allayed. Genghis Khan pursued his conquests during his life; and at his death, in 1227, he enjoined his sons to complete the conquest of China. After an interval of a few years, Kublai Khan, a grandson of Genghis Khan (according to some authorities; his fourth son, according to others), was put in possession of the five northern provinces of the empire. He then successively took the two cities of Kinsai and Sa-yan-fas; Marco Polo, the celebrated traveller, and his brother Nicolo, with a view to ingratiate themselves with the then dominant race of Asia, having supplied the Tartars with besieging engines, capable of throwing missiles of 120lbs. weight. This took place in the reign of Kung-tsung, the last emperor but two of the Sung dynasty; who ultimately fell into the hands of the Tartars, and was sent into the desert, where he died. His next brother, Twan-tsing, being placed on the throne, the Tartars advanced against him, and he was obliged to go on board his fleet, though his army is said to have amounted to 130,000 men. He retired to the coasts of Kwang-tung, where he died of disease; and his brother, Ti-ping, was proclaimed king, on board the fleet, A.D. 1279. He was in the care of Lo-syew-se, or Low-seu-foo, the prime minister, and admiral; and the fleet being attacked by the Tartars, and defeated, the minister seeing his ship surrounded by the enemy's vessels, and escape impossible, took his young sovereign in his arms, and leaped into the sea. The grandees who were on board, and the empress (Ti-ping's mother), who is described as "distracted" (and well she might be), followed his example. Shrieks and lamentations filled the air; and, it is affirmed, that no less than 100,000 Chinese perished in this engagement, either from the sword or drowning. This fatal catastrophe took place off the island of Whampoa, near the city of Kwang-tung (Canton), and it closed the dynasty of Song—transferring the sovereignty of China to a Tartar race.—Towards the close of this dynasty, Marco Polo first visited China, in 1260. The visit was repeated in 1276, when Marco was accompanied by his brother, and they were the bearers of letters from Pope Gregory X. They were in great favour with Kublai Khan, the first Tartar emperor, who took Marco into his confidence; and it was with great difficulty that he obtained leave to return to Europe. About the middle of the period, a census of the people being taken, it was found that 21,976,165 able-bodied males were employed in agriculture alone.

There were a year or two of anarchy after the defeat of the Chinese, as the reign of Kublai, who took the name of Shi-tsu (the first emperor of the twentieth, called the Mongol or Ywen dynasty), is said, in the Chinese annals, not to have commenced till A.D. 1281. Though a foreigner, Shi-tsu gained the confidence of his new subjects, by the love and regard he displayed for learned men, and the fatherly tenderness evinced to all his people. He would have retained the surviving servants of the last emperors in their places; but many of the Chinese nobles refused to serve the stranger, preferring death or exile. In the third year of his reign, he made a descent upon the Japanese islands. His expedition is said to have comprised 100,000 men. The only success attending this vast host, however, was the capture of one fort, all the defenders of which were cruelly put to death. Soon after a storm arose, and the pilots being ignorant of the coast, or unskilful (perhaps both), the vessels were all wrecked. Of the immense host, only four or five escaped, and bore the news to China. Soon after, Shi-tsu removed his court to Peking; and after a time, finding that the vessels which brought to court the tribute of the southern provinces, or which carried on the trade of the empire, were exposed to great danger, and that shipwrecks were common, he caused the famous canal to be made, which is still one of the wonders of the Chinese empire. This prince died A.D. 1296.

The four emperors who succeeded Shi-tsu, appear to have been mild and good princes. The third, Jin-tsung (A.D. 1313—1322), is reported to have set an extraordinary value upon learned men, and to have declared, "that if he could but make his people happy and prosperous by their advice, no riches or felicity could be equal to his." His son, Ying-tsung, inherited all his father's virtues; but he was assassinated in his tent, in the third year of his reign, by some of the brigands of the time; who were put to death by his successor, Tay-ting, and their families extirpated. Many parts of the empire were devastated, during this reign, by inundations, drought, and fires; and the emperor won the love of his subjects by the sympathy shown for their misfortunes, and by the timely aid afforded. He prohibited the bonzes or lamas from Thibet entering the country; but the second emperor from him not only readmitted them, but received the chief priest in his palace, where the nobles had to present him with wine on their knees. Shan-ti, the ninth, and the last of the Mongol race, ascended the throne A.D. 1333. He was a degenerate descendant of brave ancestors; and converted his palace into a receptacle for female singers and dancers. Lewdness and debauchery were accompanied by idolatry and magic—all said to be patronised by the bonzes from Tartary, who surrounded the young prince. His depravity, indolence, and sensuality, encouraged the Chinese to revolt. They assembled in large numbers, under a native chief named Chu, said to be the son of a poor labourer; who first made himself master of several considerable cities, and then overran entire provinces. The imperial army was sent against him; but he defeated it; and the emperor, obliged to fly, died two years after in obscurity. With him ended the Mongol dynasty.—During this era the arts and sciences flourished; and, in 1323, Ibn Batuta, a pilgrim, penetrated to China, on a mission from the Imaum of Alexandria. He was astonished at the good order and industry of the people. He found that paper-money was in general use by the traders; and there were wealthy Mohammedan merchants in all the large towns he visited, who had their own officers and laws. In 1356, the provinces of Fo-kien, Kwang-tung, Che-kiang, and Kwei-choo, were opened to foreign trade; and laws were passed, regulating the intercourse of the Chinese with foreigners. In the same period, Tonquin and Cochin China withdrew from the empire, and, in time, became independent.

The successful conqueror, Chu, founded a new dynasty, the twenty-first, known as that of Ming; and changed his name to Tay-tsu. He commenced his reign A.D. 1368, and fixed his court at Nanking. The next

year he took possession of Peking, after only a day's siege, and erected the province into a sovereignty, with which he invested his fourth son, Young-lo. He also conferred the title of emperor upon his father and grandfather; but as a set-off to this desire to exalt his own obscure family, he passed many good laws, which tended much to establish and preserve the public tranquillity. The intercourse of foreign nations with China, during his reign, was extensive; ambassadors visiting his court from Japan, Corea, Formosa, the Philippines, and other southern islands. He is described as "a prince of much wisdom, penetration, and piety;" and he took great care so to educate his son that he might tread in his steps. The death of that son, and of his empress, clouded his latter years with grief; and at his death, A.D. 1399, in the seventy-first year of his age, his grandson, Kien-wan, or Kyen-veu-ti, only thirteen years of age, succeeded him. This emperor's army rebelled against him—led by Young-lo, his uncle; and after a short contest, the unfortunate prince was burned to death in his palace. Young-lo then (A.D. 1403) became emperor, under the name of Ching-tsu. He found the empire at peace. His immediate predecessors had had to contend with the Tartars, instigated by the famous Tamerlane, or Timour, whose seat of government was at Samarcand. The rage of this chief was greatly excited by the expulsion of the Mongols, and he avowed his determination to wreak his vengeance on their conquerors. He died in 1405; and a temporary cessation of hostilities followed.

Ching-tsu, in the seventh year of his reign, removed the court to Peking, leaving his son as viceroy at Nanking, with as splendid a court as the imperial one at the former city. This emperor evinced great care for his people; as did his son and successor, Jin-tsong, during whose reign a severe famine desolated the empire; and he took active measures for the relief of the inhabitants; saying to his ministers, who thought he displayed too much eagerness, "When my subjects are in distress, we ought to fly to their relief with the same speed as we would stop an inundation or extinguish a fire." His reign did not continue a year; and in that of his successor, Swen-tsong (A.D. 1427—1437), the Tartars again made an irruption into the empire, but were repulsed and defeated. In that of his son, Ing-tsong, or Chin-tung (A.D. 1437—1451), who was a minor when his father died, the Tartars made fresh inroads across the frontiers, but were repulsed, and pursued beyond the Great Wall. In the fourteenth year of his reign, the emperor, at the head of his army, when following up some advantages obtained over the enemy, found his forces suffering, and greatly weakened from the want of provisions. In this state he was attacked, defeated, taken prisoner, and carried into the most distant part of Tartary. His son, only two years old, was made emperor, under the guardianship of his uncle, King-ti; but the latter seized the throne; and though Ing-tsong was eventually liberated and returned to China, he chose to go into privacy, and King-ti reigned for seven years. At his death, Ing-tsong reascended the throne, and reigned seven years more, during what appears to have been a peaceful period. At his death, his son, Hyen-tsong became emperor, and reigned twenty-three years. He was a warlike prince, and frequently defeated the plundering Tartars, who made repeated inroads into the empire. The reign of his son, Hyan-tsong (A.D. 1488—1506), was troubled with a rebellion at home, led by a bonze, who was defeated, taken prisoner, and executed (A.D. 1496), without regard to his function. About the same time a famine raged through several of the western provinces; and so terrible was the visitation, that parents are said to have eaten their children. The eastern provinces were also laid waste by a pestilence; followed by destructive earthquakes, that swallowed up many thousands of the inhabitants. Scarcely had these visitations ceased, when the irruptions and depredations of the Tartars were renewed, and in the midst of them, Hyan-tsong died. His successor, Vie-tsong, was a wilful and debauched prince. The inhabitants of two of his provinces, Shan-tung and Honan, revolted, being oppressed with heavy taxes whilst suffering from the effects of famine; and his reign was neither honourable to himself, nor advantageous to his people, who were inclined to rejoice at his death, which took place A.D. 1522. In his reign, A.D. 1517, the Portuguese first visited China, and obtained permission to settle at Shan-Shan.

His son and successor, Shi-tsong, or Kya-tsiug, succeeded to the throne when famine was raging, and his subjects were impoverished to a great extent. The Chinese historians tell us, that the destitution of many parents led them to condemn their daughters to an immoral life. Two young maids, to avoid the disgrace, drowned themselves; and this coming to the knowledge of the emperor, he erected a fine monument to the memory of "The two Illustrious Virgins," as he termed them. He also took steps for the relief of the people; passed several wholesome laws; repaired the Great Wall, sadly dilapidated by the Tartar inroads; and defeated the Tartars, who invaded his territory, taking above 200 officers prisoners. About A.D. 1556, the Japanese invaded China; but were defeated, and obliged to retreat to their ships. The next year they made another descent, with a larger force, when they were cut off to a man. After these successes, Shi-tsong, in following the example of several of his predecessors, who had made search after what was called an "immortalising liquor," thought he had succeeded in the discovery. On drinking some liquid, however, to which this character was attached, he immediately expired, A.D. 1567.

The reign of the twelfth sovereign of the Ming race was quiet and prosperous. During that of Shin-tsong (his successor), the Pope, in 1575, sent the first Jesuit missionaries to China, who were favourably received. Matthew Ricci was the chief of this mission; and, in 1583, he obtained access to the emperor, whom he presented with a repeating-watch. So highly was this novelty valued, that a tower was erected to keep it safe; and Ricci became in great favour with Shin-tsong, who gave him permission to build a church. In the year the watch was presented, there was a dreadful famine in the province of Shan-see, of which 60,000 people are reported to have perished. In the same year the Tartars again invaded the country, but were defeated, and 10,000 killed on the field of battle. During the war with the Tartars, the coast was desolated by pirates: for their assistance in repelling these marauders, the Portuguese were, in 1585, rewarded with the possession of Macao, where they had obtained permission to settle in 1537.* The Dutch, stimulated by the example of the Portuguese, also

* For an account of Macao, see vol. i., p. 157.

attempted to establish a commercial intercourse with China, and to make their way to Canton. Their fellow-Christians, however, intrigued to prevent their success; and they were compelled to content themselves with an establishment on the island of Formosa.

For several years the empire appears to have been blessed with peace. About 1617, however, the Tartars, incensed at the insolence of the mandarins, and at the treacherous murder of one of their princes, again invaded the country—the son of the murdered Tartar vowing to sacrifice 200,000 Chinese to the manes of his father. He invaded the province of Pe-chee-lee with 50,000 men, but was repulsed: on retiring into his own country, however, he assumed the title of Emperor of China; and, two years after, by a successful stratagem, he enticed a Chinese army to pass the wall, and defeated them with a terrible slaughter. The next year, the emperor himself took the field at the head of a powerful army, which was joined by an auxiliary force of 12,000 men from Corea. A long and obstinate battle was fought, in which the Tartars, being victorious, marched upon Peking. The emperor would have fled to the south, but the representations of his ministers restrained him, and he remained at the capital, where he died A.D. 1621. His son and successor, Kwang-tsung did not survive him a month.

The next emperor, Hi-tsong, was too much swayed by court eunuchs, yet he made a vigorous defence against the Tartars. He was supported by fresh auxiliaries from Corea; and by a force of several thousand men, brought by a lady (a fair Amazon) from the province of Sze-chouen, where her son held a small sovereignty. The emperor also fitted out a powerful fleet, intending to humble the enemy both by sea and land; and he sent to Macao for some Portuguese engineers, to serve the artillery, recently introduced into the army, but in the management of which the Chinese were very inexpert. At first the Chinese were successful; and the prompt and valuable assistance of the Portugnese had such an effect, that the mother of the emperor, his wife, and eldest son, embraced Christianity. Victory, however, did not long remain with the imperialists. One of the Tartar leaders, Tyen-ming, defeated the emperor's army, and laid siege to Peking, of which he obtained possession through the aid of a traitor; the Chinese having lost 30,000, and the enemy 20,000, men in the siege. Enraged at his loss, and at the sturdy resistance he had met with, Tyen-ming, as soon as he had occupied the city, issued an edict, commanding all the Chinese, under pain of death, to shave their heads after the Tartar fashion. The edict was generally complied with where the Tartar power then, or subsequently, prevailed; yet several thousands of the people preferred losing their lives to parting with their hair. In the third year of Hi-tsong's reign, the number of "robbers and seditious people" greatly increased; and the next year was rendered memorable by the discovery of the Christian monument already mentioned,* near the capital of Shan-see. Hi-tsong died in the seventh year of his reign, A.D. 1628, and was succeeded by his brother, Tsong-ching, who, when he ascended the throne, was called Whay-tsong, and still more commonly, Zun-ching. In the same year Tyen-ming, the king of the Tartars, died, and was succeeded by his son, Tyen-tsong, who proved the reverse of his father, being a prince of "great clemency, meekness, and goodness."

Whay-tsong, or Zun-ching, was a great lover of the sciences, and a favourer of the Christians, but continued, himself, devoted to the superstitions of Buddhism. "He had most of the princely qualities that could render him capable of governing; was an enemy to luxury, and to the court eunuchs, and took the most effectual way to remove them, even from the very beginning of his reign." His good qualities, however, did not insure peace and contentment. Revolts and disturbances broke out in various parts of the empire contemporaneously with a Tartar war; and as he found he could not carry on the contest advantageously with the rebels and the foreign enemy, he resolved to make peace with the latter. With this view, he sent one of his generals, named Ywen, to Tartary, at the head of a large army, with instructions to conclude a peace. He did do so, but upon such terms that the emperor refused to ratify it; on which Ywen, having poisoned a faithful general, Mau-veu-long, sent word to the Tartars to march upon Peking by one road, while he advanced by another. Thus the enemy reached the capital unmolested, and commenced the siege. Ywen arrived shortly after, and entered the place, not suspecting that his treachery had been discovered—his intention being to open the gates to the enemy. He was, however, seized and strangled; and the Tartars immediately raised the siege; but they returned laden with plunder. A change appears now to have come over the character of Whay-tsong, who became uneasy, thoughtful, diffident, and, worse than all, cruel. Just at the time, the Tartar king, Tyen-tsong, died; and his son Tsong-te, who had been privately brought up among the Chinese from his infancy, and was a perfect master of their language and learning, as well as of their genius and customs, had gained the love and esteem of many of the mandarins. As Whay-tsong's eccentricities increased, more of his subjects fell off from him; and before the ninth year of his reign closed, an extensive revolt was organised, at first under four, and then under two, generals, Li and Chang. The former commanded in the east; the latter in the west. Li laid siege to Honan, but was repulsed; and when he renewed the siege, six months later, he met with a determined resistance; the inhabitants preferring to live on human flesh, rather than surrender to a rebel. An imperial army arrived to the assistance of the besieged; and the general, under the impression that he should drown the entire rebel army, cut down the dikes of the Hoang-ho, or the Yellow River, on the banks of which Honan is built. The step was fatal, not to the rebels, who had time to escape to the mountains, but to the inhabitants of Honan. The city, lying lower than the river, was completely inundated; and no fewer than 300,000 persons perished. Li then overran the provinces of Shau-see and Honan, and, proceeding further north, entered Peking in triumph, at the head of 300,000 men; the emperor, at the time, being shut up in his palace, employing himself in the superstitious observances of the bonzes, and entirely ignorant of what was taking place. When he was made aware that the capital was in the hands of his enemies, he endeavoured to escape, but, being abandoned by his guards, he found this impossible. He then retired into a distant part of the palace-garden, with his empress, and, according to some accounts, a young princess, his daughter. Here, overcome with grief, after a silent embrace, husband and wife parted; and the latter, retiring into the

* See *ante*, p. 109.

wood, hung herself with a silken string. The emperor, after the empress left him, wrote these words on the bottom of his vest:—"I have been basely deserted by my subjects; do what you will with me, but spare my people." He then hung himself, in the seventeenth year of his reign, and thirty-sixth of his age, having first, according to some authorities, cut off the head of his daughter with a scimitar; others make no mention of that incident. His body was found, and taken to Li, who used it with the utmost indignity, and caused two of his sons, and all his ministers, to be executed; his eldest son escaped.

With Whay-tsong ended the race of Chinese princes; but peace was not the immediate consequence of his death. Li immediately assumed the imperial dignity, and was acknowledged by officers, army, and people, except one general, U-san-ghez, who, at the head of a considerable force, refused submission to the usurper. Li marched against him with a powerful army, and shut him up in the capital of the province, of which he was governor. Still he refused to yield; and the sight of his father (whom Li had taken prisoner) in chains, with the threat that he should immediately be put to death, did not change his determination, though he burst into a flood of tears, and, falling on his knees, implored Heaven to forgive him, for preferring his allegiance to his prince to his duty to his father. The noble old man approved of his son's resolve; and disdaining to attempt to sap his loyalty, submitted to his fate. He was put to death: and then U-san-ghez, learning the death of Whay-tsong, resolved to avenge both. He concluded a peace with the Mant-choo, or eastern Tartars, and induced their king to join him against the usurper. Tsong-te, the Tartar prince, led an army of 80,000 men to the relief of U-san-ghez. On their approach Li raised the siege, and returned to Peking; and not thinking himself safe there, he first plundered, and then burned the palace, and with his immense spoil made his way into the province of Shan-see. Tsong-te's death followed almost immediately, and his son, Shun-chi, only six years old, succeeded him, under the care and guardianship of his uncle, A-ma-van. The latter conducted the young prince to Peking, where he was received with the acclamations of the people; shouts of congratulation resounding on all sides, with cries of "Long may he live! Long live the emperor! May he live a thousand years!" Nothing certain is known as to the fate of Li. Some say he was slain in an engagement with U-san-ghez; others that he fortified Shan-see, and defended himself there for some time. His name and memory are still held in execration by both Tartars and Chinese.

It was in the last days of the Ming dynasty that the English commercial intercourse with China commenced. In the reign of Elizabeth an attempt had been made to open a trade with the "Celestial Empire." In 1596, Sir Robert Dudley fitted out three ships, which were placed under the command of Benjamin Wood, who was furnished with a letter from the queen to the emperor, and he was directed "to pierce as far as Cathay." These vessels did not reach China, and their fate was never ascertained. No further attempt was made till 1637, when four ships, the *Dragon*, *Sun*, *Catherine*, and *Anne*, besides a pinnace, the whole under the command of Captain Weddel, were dispatched to Macao. On their arrival, the Portuguese misrepresented the views and intentions of the English to the Chinese authorities; and when the vessels, after the commander had communicated with the mandarins, passed the Bocca Tigris, they were fired upon from the forts. The fire did little damage; it was, of course, returned, and the Chinese were soon driven from their guns, which the English captured. Renewed communications were opened with the mandarins, who laid all the blame on the Portuguese. Cargoes were then supplied to the English, who restored the guns, and sailed on their homeward voyage.

It was at the close of 1643, or early in 1644, that Shun-chi, or Xun-chi, was acknowledged emperor of China, and founded the twenty-second, or Tsing dynasty, which still occupies the throne of that empire. He rewarded U-san-ghez, by bestowing upon him the title of Ping-si, or "pacifier of the west;" and he assigned to him the city of Tae-yuen-foo, the capital of Shan-see, for his residence. The Chinese chief, however, never forgave himself for having been the means of establishing a Tartar sovereign on the throne. That sovereign was not at first acknowledged by the mass of the Chinese people; but, as he had the aid of a Chinese army as well as his own, he rapidly overran the northern provinces, all of which, by the latter end of 1644, acknowledged his sway.

The subjugation of the southern provinces, however, was neither so easily nor so speedily accomplished. Having first invaded Corea with a powerful army, defeated the Coreans, and received the homage of their king, Shun-chi ordered his army, under the command of one of his uncles, to march directly to the south, where a grandson of Shin-tsong, the thirteenth sovereign of the Ming dynasty, had been proclaimed emperor, under the name of Hong-quang, or Hun-guan (which signifies "splendour"), and had established himself at Nanking. He was an amiable prince, and the mandarins had great difficulty in persuading him to accept the crown, which he was unable to defend; for he was compelled to yield to the superior force sent against him, was taken prisoner, and slain. The province of Che-kiang was then entered by the Tartars, and the submission of Lo-vang, its king or governor, procured the safety of the inhabitants. Another grandson of Shin-tsong, named Long-vu, had been proclaimed emperor in the province of Sze-chouen, which, with those of Fo-kien, Kwang-tung, and Kwang-see, acknowledged him. He had great hopes of maintaining his authority over those four districts, as, in addition to a good army, he had the aid of Ching-chi-long, one of the bravest naval commanders the Chinese could ever boast of. From a very low and obscure position, this man had raised himself, not by the most honourable means (for he is accused of becoming possessed of the greater part of his wealth by forged wills), to a position of importance. He was one of the most considerable traders in the province of Fo-kien, and had fitted out a numerous fleet against the Tartars. At the head of this fleet he declared for the Chinese emperor; and there are reports of his fighting several battles with the enemy, and of his refusing all their offers to tempt him from his allegiance. On the other hand, he is charged with having ultimately betrayed Long-vu. It is certain that he died in prison at Peking; but it is not known whether he was defeated and carried there as a prisoner, or whether he went to that capital upon an errand of treachery.

Long-vu did not long survive the captivity of Ching-chi-long; but another of the late imperial family was

proclaimed emperor at Kwang-tung. This city was strongly fortified, but, after a vigorous siege for nearly twelve months, it surrendered. The long defence so exasperated the Tartar general, that, when it submitted, he gave it up to his troops for three days' plunder. The Tartars had scarcely entered, when a powerful fleet appeared on the canal, bringing a strong reinforcement to the relief of the city. Finding that the enemy had already got possession, the Chinese set fire to the newest and richest houses and streets, and then put to sea again. The Tartars proceeded in their work of plunder, and immense was the amount of the spoil. Great indignities were also offered to the inhabitants, without distinction of sex, age, or quality; and it was no easy task for the generals to restore order, and re-establish a government. This effected, Kwang-see was invaded; and there two Christians, Thomas Kyu, the viceroy, and Luke Chin, the generalissimo of the Chinese forces, met the invaders, at the head of a strong army, defeated, and put them to flight. The victorious army proclaimed Young-lye, a member of the Chinese family, emperor; and he established his court at Shauk-ing, the only city in the province of Kwang-tung, that had not acknowledged the Tartar authority.

This victory caused several cities in Fo-kien, and the other three provinces, to drive out the Tartars; and Ching-ching-kong, the son of Ching-chi-loug (better known as Coxinga), at the head of a numerous and powerful fleet, sailed along the coasts, recovering the territory from the invaders, and re-establishing native authority. He cut to pieces several Tartar detachments, and, for a short time, success attended all his movements. These successes inspired the Chinese elsewhere to make efforts to regain their independence. The viceroy of Kiang-see was one of the first to shake off the yoke, and he defeated the Tartars in several engagements. Two other chiefs, Ho and Kyang, appeared at the head of Chinese armies, in Shau-see, and gained many advantages over the enemy; whilst a third, Chang-hyen-chang, said to have been "more like a devil incarnate than a Chinese chief," over-ran Hoo-nan, Kiaug-su, and Kiang-see, and then made an irruption into Sze-chouen, exercising the most horrid cruelties, and committing, everywhere, the most unheard-of outrages and barbarities. Some of the atrocities related of him are almost beyond belief. Thus we are told that, being about to depart from Ching-too-foo, the capital of Sze-chouen, "he ordered all the inhabitants to be led out of the city in chains, and to be massacred in the fields, to the number of 60,000." He "was no less cruel to his own troops; ordering them to kill their wives, as they were an incumbrance in the time of war." This monster finally marched against the Tartars in Shan-see; and there, going out of his tent, unarmed, to look at some warriors who were seen on the hills, he was shot through the heart with an arrow. His army soon after dispersed; and the Chinese in Shan-see, rid of the monster, were glad to settle down in quiet under the Tartar government.

Still the south, to a certain extent, rallied under Young-lye; and the Tartars resorted to stratagems, to bribes, and to sowing dissensions among the Chinese chiefs, with a view to arrest their progress, and establish the authority of Shun-chi. His uncle, the great A-ma-van, died when he was fourteen years old [A.D. 1651]; and at that early age, he married a daughter of a prince of the western Tartars, and took upon himself the cares of government. He soon gained the hearts of the Chinese, by his "extreme moderation, and the singular and unhoped-for regard which he paid to their ancient laws and customs," whilst he delighted them by showing himself in public, and giving them free access to his person. He rectified many abuses, exercised the greatest impartiality in civil employments, and even gave the Chinese commissions in his army, though he generally placed them in subordinate positions to Tartars. He became highly esteemed for his love of learning, and the progress he made in science; and he greatly favoured the Jesuits, especially one named Father Adam Schaal, whom he always honoured with the title of "Ma Fa," or "My Father." Two Christian churches were built at Peking, under his authority and protection.

In A.D. 1656, the first embassy from the czar of Muscovy arrived in Peking, but it failed in effecting any arrangement for commercial or other intercourse between the two countries, as the ambassador would not submit to the Chinese ceremonies, which he considered disgraceful. One from Holland arrived shortly after, which was also unsuccessful—from the influence of the Jesuits, however, rather than from the refusal of the Dutch to submit to the Kou-tou. In 1659, we again hear of Ching-ching-kong, who had seldom met with repulses, and never been seriously defeated in his incursions along the coasts. He laid siege to Nanking, transporting his men there, we are assured, in 3,000 ships—more likely to be 300. Three weeks after the investment of the place, the besieging force being indulging in merriment, and relaxed in discipline, on account of the commander's birthday, they were surprised by the besieged, 3,000 of them killed, and the rest obliged to fly to their ships, leaving their camp, baggage, provisions, &c., behind them. Ching-ching-kong then pursued the Tartar fleet, with a view at once to repair his loss and disgrace. Having fallen in with it, he made the attack with such fury, that he sank and captured a great many vessels, taking as many as 4,000 prisoners, whose noses and ears he cut off, and then set them ashore. They were all, soon after, put to death, "under pretence that they ought to have died sword-in-hand; but, in reality, to conceal the shame of that defeat." He subsequently drove the Dutch out of the island of Formosa, and established himself there.

Shortly after the failure of Ching-ching-kong, the unfortunate Young-lye, who had found himself obliged to remove to the province of Yun-nau, was driven out of China, and took sanctuary in Pegu. Shun-chi did not like his residence so near the empire, and he demanded of the king of Pegu that he should be given up, threatening to over-run the kingdom with fire and sword, if he were detained. As resistance would have been impossible, the Peguan monarch surrendered Young-lye; and when the latter reached Pegu, he was strangled. His mother and wife, who were surrendered with him, were honourably treated; they had apartments allotted to them in the royal palace, and died in the Christian faith, having been converted by Father Schaal. Shun-chi himself, in 1660, married a young widow lady, whose husband he had previously treated with such indignity, that it broke his heart. She gave birth to a son, an event which was celebrated with great magnificence. The child died when it had attained the age of three months; and the mother soon after. Such was the grief of the

emperor, that he would have killed himself, if his mother and the eunuchs had not prevented it; but he sacrificed thirty Tartars to the manes of his empress, and causing her body to be burned on a magnificent pile, he gathered up her ashes in a silver urn. From this time Father Schaal lost all influence over him; and having appointed four lords of his court guardians to his son, Kang-hi, who was only eight years old, "he called for his imperial mantle, put it on, shrunk himself into his bed, saying, 'Now I leave you,' and expired in an instant," in the year 1662, he being in the twenty-fourth year of his age, and the eighteenth of his reign.

Kang-hi possessed many princely qualities; but for the first years of his reign, during which Father Schaal was his preceptor, he was under the control of his four guardians, of whom So-ni was the chief, and who made it their principal study to preserve the empire in a peaceable and flourishing condition. They found the palace over-run with eunuchs, the greater part of whom they banished, and those who remained were employed only in the lowest offices. Another measure was less politic. To impair the power of Ching-ching-kong, who was yet dreaded, the inhabitants of the sea-coasts were ordered to leave their dwellings, and retire three leagues from the sea. All the maritime cities, towns, and fortresses were destroyed, and foreign commerce interrupted. A severe edict was next issued against Christian converts, all whose churches were demolished. Father Schaal, who still had great interest at court, had to exert it to the utmost, to procure an exemption of the city of Macao from the consequences of this edict. Shortly after, one of the literati of China presented a petition to the regents against Schaal, who, with three of his associates was imprisoned, and loaded with irons. This was in the year 1664. In the following year Christianity was proscribed as false and pernicious, and Father Schaal was condemned to be strangled. His enemies, however, thinking that too honourable a punishment, interfered; and he was ordered to be exposed in a public place, and, whilst alive, cut into ten thousand pieces. The sentence was sent to the regents for their confirmation; and there, according to the Jesuit Du Halde, a series of miracles took place, and the life of the father was preserved. Every time an attempt was made to read the sentence, a sudden earthquake shook the hall with such vehemence, that all present rushed out to avoid being crushed under its ruins. We are not told how often this was repeated; but we are assured, that the people were thrown into the greatest consternation, believing that the alarming phenomenon was occasioned by the unjust sentence passed on Father Adam. The author adds, that, after an interval, the earthquake was renewed more violently than ever; a fire broke out, at the same time, in the palace, and consumed a great part of the building. These with several other concomitant prodigies, we are assured, "opened the eyes of the unjust judges, and convinced them that Heaven interested itself in favour of the prisoners, who were immediately set at liberty, and Father Schaal was permitted to return to his place about the young emperor."

So-ni, the chief of the regents, died A.D. 1667; and, in the same year, Su-ka-ma, who had stood next to him in rank was disgraced for misconduct, he being found guilty on twenty articles of accusation. His effects were confiscated, and he was to have suffered a cruel death; but the emperor ordered him to be straugled: seven of his children were also beheaded, and one son cut to pieces. The Jesuits say that he justly deserved this punishment, for the ill-offices he had privately done to them and their religion—of which charge, however, we have no proof. In 1669, an embassy from Portugal arrived at Peking, and met with an honourable reception. The proceedings of this mission contributed, not a little, to the permanent establishment of the Portuguese at Macao. In 1670, Father Verbiest, who had been employed to correct the Chinese calendar, employed his influence in favour of the Christians; all he could effect, however, was, the recalling of the missionaries, and a declaration from the assembly of mandarins, that the Christian religion taught nothing that was evil, or that tended to sedition. The missionaries were expressly forbiddeu to build churches; and the Chinese were prohibited from embracing Christianity. On the decease of Schaal, his place about the person of the emperor was conferred on Father Verbiest. During this time, U-san-ghey, who had invited the Tartars to China, had been strengthening himself in the district which he was entrusted to govern, till at last he thought himself strong enough to throw off the yoke, and declared his independence of Kang-hi. His proceedings became known to the Tartar authorities, and he received a message, desiring him to repair to Peking. His reply was, that "he should not go thither, except iu company with 80,000 men." He had then made himself master of Yun-nan, Kwei-choo, Sze-choen, and Hou-pih, or Hu-quang; was strengthened by the viceroys ("wangs," or kings, they are sometimes called) of Fo-kien, and Kwang-tung, declaring war against the Tartars: and also by the alliance of Ching-ching-kong, who was acknowledged king of Formosa. This appeared to be a formidable alliance; and, although the Tartars seemed to be impregnable in the north, a rival empire might have been permauently established iu the south, if these chiefs had been true to, and maintaiued good faith with each other. Successful at first, their jealousies and quarrels soon injured their cause, and gave the advantage to the Tartars. First Ching-ching-kong, upon the pretence that the honour due to his rank had not been paid to him, quarrelled with the viceroy of Fo-kien, declared war against him, defeated his troops in several battles, and thus compelled him to submit to the government at Peking. The viceroy of Kwang-tung, also soon separated from U-san-ghey, and placed himself and province under the protection of the emperor. Thus U-san-ghey was left to maintain the contest single-handed, and the army sent against him captured several of his large towns, and worsted his troops in various encounters. Full of years, and overpowered with his misfortunes, he died A.D. 1680, having been stripped of much of his acquired possessions: nevertheless his youngest son, Hong-wha, was declared emperor. He maintained his position only a few months. The emperor's army made itself master of the capital of Yun-nan, where Hong-wha resided; and, to avoid a worse fate, he killed himself. The victorious troops dug up the bones of U-san-ghey, which were carried to Peking, where they were exposed with every indiguity. The success of the emperor in this contest is attributed mainly to the use of cannon, which Father Verbiest cast for him. The fall of U-san-ghey occurred in 1681; and soon after another earthquake desolated Peking, overturned a great number of palaces, temples, and other public buildings, together with the walls and towers of the city, and

many thousands of the inhabitants were destroyed by it. Towards the end of the same month, the imperial palace was set on fire, and reduced to ashes in a few hours. This palace had been most magnificently furnished and decorated; and the loss occasioned by its destruction was estimated at 2,850,000 taels.*

In 1676, whilst the Chinese authority was maintained in the south, the English obtained a footing on the islands of Amoy and Quemoy, where the East India Company erected factories; but, upon the submission of those places to the Tartar conquerors in 1680, they were obliged to abandon their establishments. Four years afterwards, when internal peace was restored to the empire, the government of Formosa arranged, and the arts of industry resumed in the seaport towns, the English were allowed to reoccupy the factory at Amoy; and they retained it until the edict which restricted all foreign commerce to Macao and Canton was issued. Their principal intercourse, however, was with Canton; where a committee of merchants, called the Hong merchants, was organised, by imperial authority, to deal exclusively with the foreigners.

After the death of Hong-wha, the provinces which now constitute the Chinese empire were considered to be so completely subdued, that the emperor, in the beginning of March, 1682, resolved to visit his own native dominions in Eastern Tartary. On this occasion, he took with him his three queens, the prince his heir, with a number of Tartarian princes, his tributaries, all of whom had splendid equipages, and a retinue suitable to their rank. An army of 70,000 men also accompanied him: as did Father Verbiest, who has given a particular account of the journey. Shortly after the return of Kang-hi to Peking, a chief who had attained some notoriety—Ching-ke-sun, grandson of Ching-ching-kong—was obliged to surrender the island of Formosa to the emperor. He had the title of count conferred upon him, with some small means to support it; and this is the last we hear of the family of Ching-ching-kong. In 1683, the emperor made a progress to Western Tartary, with a greater army and retinue than accompanied him to the east the previous year. These visits were continued for several years, and two or three months were spent in them on each occasion, the journey being diversified with the sport of hunting, which neither the Chinese nor Tartar lords were displeased with. The progresses enabled the emperor to keep his Tartar troops in exercise, and prevented them from growing effeminate, like the Chinese: they also displayed the grandeur and magnificence of his court; and made his power and authority appear more formidable. He therefore persisted in them, notwithstanding the opposition of some of his ministers, who complained of their trouble and expense. In 1684, two Jesuit missionaries, Fathers Gerbillon and Pereira, were sent to Tartary, with two Chinese plenipotentiaries, their mission being to settle and adjust the limits between the two empires of China and Russia, and to fix the boundaries. Those boundaries the former have never evinced a desire to overstep; we cannot say so much for the latter. In 1689, a treaty was concluded between China and Russia, by which permission was granted to the latter to send a caravan of merchandise every year to Peking; and leave was given for a certain number of Russians to reside in that city.

Thus peaceably progressed the great Chinese empire for several years. The emperor employed his leisure time, under the instruction of the two Jesuits just mentioned, in learning mathematics, in reading, and in composing lectures in the Tartar tongue on algebra, astronomy, anatomy, geometry, natural philosophy, and physic. He became so attached to his tutors, that they acquired, in time, influence enough with him to procure the publication of a decree, allowing Christians the free exercise of their religion throughout his dominions. This decree bears date 1692, in the 31st year of his reign, and was published in the month of March. Some years after, in 1716, the emperor—on receiving a memorial from a military mandarin, full of invectives against the Christians; and Tournon, the apostolical vicar and legate of the pope, having a few years before issued a mandate, ordering all Christians not to follow any customs, &c., interdicted by the court of Rome—revived the old edicts affecting them: he forbade them to build churches or make proselytes; and obliged every missionary to take out a patent, in which, after giving a description of himself something like that required in a European passport, he had to enter into an engagement not to return to Europe. The principal events that occurred in the remainder of this reign, were the conquest of Thibet, completed in 1720; and the arrival of an ambassador from Russia, who reached Peking on the 22nd of November, the same year. The public entry into the imperial city was very imposing. The ambassador had a numerous and splendid retinue, all dressed in the European manner. He was escorted by a troop of gentlemen, riding on each side of him, with their swords drawn, which was a novel sight in Peking; and his reception at court corresponded with the grandeur of his own display, though at first there was some doubt that he would not be received at all, as he refused to perform the Kou-tou. At length it was arranged, that the letter from the czar, constituting his credentials, should be laid on a table, and that a mandarin should perform the ceremony—which consists of kneeling and knocking the forehead nine times on the ground—before it; the ambassador did not hesitate then to perform the same ceremony before the emperor. The object of the mission was, to open a free commerce between the two countries, with leave to the Russians to establish factories in the chief provinces of the empire. Leave was given to establish them at Peking, and another place only; but the mission was otherwise satisfactory. Eight years afterwards, a treaty was entered into between Catherine and China, by which the Russians were permitted to build a church, and to follow the Greek religion, at Peking, where a mission of six priests and four laymen was established, which has been continued up to the present day, the members, lay and clerical, being changed every ten years.

Kang-hi died, in the sixty-ninth year of his age, and the sixtieth of his reign, A.D. 1722. His fourth son succeeded him, by his own appointment; and on his ascending the throne he took the name of Yung-ching; which signifies "lasting peace," or "indissoluble concord." His early acts were directed against the Christians. There is no doubt, that since the first introduction of the Gospel in China, Christianity had made considerable progress through all the provinces of the empire. But, unhappily, divisions were almost as rife amongst the professed followers of Christ then, as they are now; and there is too much reason to believe that the Jesuits were

* The value of a tael is about five shillings.

carrying on intrigues to obtain something more than spiritual power—of which the mandate of Tournon was an indication. Soon after Yung-ching was proclaimed, memorials were presented to him from the Chinese *literati*, alleging, that the proselytes to Christianity would acknowledge no masters but the teachers; and that, in troublous times, they would follow no directions except theirs. These memorials were answered by the banishment of several princes and grandees who had protected the missionaries, to a desert in Tartary, where they were closely confined under a guard. Soon after, in 1724, an edict appeared, banishing the Jesuits from all parts of the empire, except Canton. As soon as the news of these measures reached Europe, the king of Portugal, in 1726, sent an embassy to the king, to intercede in their behalf. The ambassadors were courteously received; but their interference was of no avail. On the contrary, in 1732, the Christians at Canton were ordered to leave that city; and about thirty persons embarked on the 20th of August, with their domestics, &c., for Macao. On their arrival there, the mandarins caused all the persons who had accompanied them to be loaded with irons, and sent back to Canton; where, after being dragged, in an ignominious manner, before several tribunals, some were imprisoned, others bastinadoed; while others were condemned to wear the *cangue*, or wooden collar,* for a month or two: all these persons gave signal proofs of their zeal for, and their sincere adherence to, our divine faith. In other parts of China, the monks and lay Christians were imprisoned; but, notwithstanding the emperor's decree, a few Jesuits attached to the astronomical board, appear to have been permitted to reside at Peking. While the proceedings against the Christians were in progress, in 1731, the province of Pe-chee-lee was visited by an earthquake, which desolated a considerable extent of territory, and laid the greatest part of Peking in ruins. Upwards of 10,000 persons perished in the capital alone; and the emperor expended a large sum—equivalent to about £250,000—in the relief of the sufferers.

Yung-ching, in 1733, sent to St. Petersburg the first embassy that was ever known to leave the Chinese court for Europe. It consisted of three mandarins of the second class, and a numerous retinue. Presents were sent to the czar, who returned others to the emperor. The latter died in 1735, and was succeeded by Keen-lung, his eldest illegitimate son. This emperor had much of the temper and spirit of his grandfather, Kang-hi. He signalised his accession to the throne by continuing the severity which Yung-ching had exercised against the Christians; but he recalled all the relatives of the late emperor who had been banished for embracing Christianity; and, during the whole of his long reign, he encouraged the learning and *literati* of China, evincing himself no inconsiderable genius as a poet. Soon after his accession he received an embassy from Russia; and the ambassador, Ragusinki, succeeded in concluding a treaty, called "the Treaty of Kiatcha," somewhat varying the terms of that concluded in 1689. By it a Russian caravan, not comprising more than 200 persons, was to be permitted to visit China, for the purpose of trade, every three years. A limited number of Russians were also permitted to take up their abode in China, for the purpose of learning the language; and leave was given to erect a church for their accommodation. Another embassy from Portugal arrived at Peking in 1754, which was escorted from Canton to Pekiug by two mandarins of high rank. The especial object of this embassy was never understood; but one of its effects was the reduction of the sum which the Portuguese at Macao annually paid to the Chinese government. In 1767 Keen-lung was engaged in a war with Burmah, the origin of which, as far as it can be ascertained, was in a desire for foreign conquest, very unusually displayed by the government of Peking, or by the Chinese people. The first campaign ended very unfortunately. An army of 100,000 men was sent to Burmah, which had to encounter such difficulties from the imperfect communications (much of the route being intersected with swamps and jungle), and the unceasing attacks of the Burmese, who kept up an incessant guerilla warfare, that only 2,000 returned to China. A still larger army was sent under the emperor's favourite general, A-quei, which had scarcely entered Burmah, when the troops were attacked by the jungle fever, and thousands perished. To save the remainder, A-quei concluded a peace with the Burmese generals, who, on their return to Ava, were disgraced, because they had suffered one Chinaman to leave Burmah alive. Wars with the Meaou-tse mountaineers, and with various parties of rebels, occurred at different periods of Keen-lung's reign; and the barbarity with which he treated all prisoners who fell into his hands was the great blot upon his character. One of the most serious rebellions took place in the island of Formosa. Roused to resistance by the exactions and cruelties of the mandarin governors, the people put one of them to death. The viceroy of Fo-kien was sent to punish them, which he did by ordering a number of Formosans to be executed without any regard to their connection with the murder of the mandarin. This had the effect of causing the inhabitants to rise in a body, and a scene, resembling the Sicilian Vespers, ensued, every Chinese and Tartar found on the island being massacred. A fleet and army were then sent to the island; and after a display of great heroism on the part of the inhabitants, they obtained a treaty indemnifying them for their losses, and giving them security against the recurrence of such tyranny as had caused their rebellion.

One of the most remarkable events of Keen-lung's reign was the arrival, in 1793, of an embassy from England, the object of which was to procure, if possible, permission from the emperor to trade at Ningpo, Chusan, Tien-tsin, and other places, as well as at Canton, where the commercial intercourse had, from the commencement of the century, met with continual interruptions. Many years were spent in endeavours to obtain a relaxation of the high duties demanded there; and, in 1734, only one ship was sent to the port, in consequence of the exactions of the Chinese authorities. In 1736, attempts were made to open a trade at Ningpo, which failed, the mandarins demanding the surrender of the arms and ammunition on board the ship *Normanton*, that proceeded there on a preliminary mission. Soon after the accession of Keen-lung, he remitted an extra duty of ten per cent., which, a few years before, the Hoppo, or chief commissioner of customs at Canton, had laid upon exports. When the European traders were informed of this remission by the Hong merchants, they were told "that they must prostrate themselves, kneeling on both knees," to thank the emperor, which they refused to do; the duty was remitted,

* See vol. i., p. 173.

notwithstanding. This concession was not, as might have been expected, the forerunner of more liberality on the part of the Chinese; and the commercial annals of the century consist of little more than records of struggles between the traders and the authorities—at Canton and elsewhere—wherever an attempt was made to trade; the Chinese throughout acting upon what Père Premare tells us is the fundamental maxim of their intercourse with foreigners. "The barbarians," they say, according to the father, "are like beasts, and are not to be ruled on the same principles as citizens. Were any one to attempt to control them by the great maxims of reason, it would tend to nothing but confusion. The ancient kings well understood this; and, accordingly, ruled barbarians by misrule. Therefore, to rule barbarians by misrule is the true and the best way of ruling them."

Notwithstanding all the difficulties thrown in the way of the traders by the Chinese, and the arbitrary, and not unfrequently treacherous, proceedings which sometimes led to the undeserved death of an unfortunate European, the trade with Canton increased. As far as England was concerned, it was in the hands of the East India Company; and commissioners, and a select committee deputed by them, managed the affairs of the English at Canton. Its growing importance attracted the attention of the home government; and as, in 1785, Keen-lung issued a decree releasing the imprisoned monks, and allowing them either to join their brethren at Peking, or to proceed to Europe, this relaxation of his former severity to the Christians may have led to the supposition that he would be inclined to receive favourably a European embassy. At all events, the English government resolved, in 1788, to send Colonel Cathcart as ambassador to Peking. He went out in the *Vestal* frigate, but died on his passage, when the vessel had arrived in the Bay of Sunda: this put a stop to the mission, and the frigate returned to England. In 1792, the project of an embassy to China was revived by Mr. Dundas (afterwards Lord Melville), who urged the propriety of that step, on the ground, that the trade of England with China had gradually increased, until it exceeded that of all other nations; and a hope was expressed, that the presence of an ambassador "might relax the various trammels by which the commerce with China was shackled, relieve it from some of its exactions, and place our countrymen at Canton on a footing of greater respectability, as well as security in relation to the local government." It was therefore resolved to send out Lord Macartney as a special envoy; and his lordship left England, in the *Lion*, a 64-guu ship, on the 26th of September, accompanied by Sir George Leonard Staunton, as secretary of legation. His lordship did not arrive at Peking till the following September: on the 14th of that month, the ambassador was presented to the emperor, who dispensed with the Tartar act of homage, called the Kou-tou; and there was much negotiating with the mandarins. All that was obtained, however, was the recall of the viceroy of Cauton, whose insolence and extortion had been so unbearable: the mandarins evaded all proposals made for the opening of other ports besides Canton; and the emperor transmitted a letter to the king of England, refusing to make any alteration in the commercial system. The Russians then (said his imperial majesty) only traded at Kiatcha, and British commerce must be strictly limited to Canton. "You will not be able to complain," said the emperor, at the conclusion of his missive, "that I had not clearly forewarned you. Let us, therefore, live in peace and friendship. I do not make light of my words."

Lord Macartney left Peking October 7th, 1793, and arrived in England on the 6th of September, 1794. Although his mission had failed in its immediate objects, it was confidently expected that it would result in putting the British upon a better footing in China; and it was resolved that a letter should be addressed, in the name of his Britannic majesty, to the Chinese emperor, and transmitted, with suitable presents, to Peking. These reached Canton in June, 1795, accompanied by letters and presents from the ministers and the chairman of the East India Company, to the viceroy of Cantou. Soon after the receipt of the letter, Keen-lung, having reigned sixty years, resigned the throne to his son, Kea-king, conferring on himself the title of "supreme emperor." He died in 1798, leaving behind him the repute of having been one of the best sovereigus that had ever reigned in China.

Kea-king was, in many respects, quite unworthy of his father. He renewed the persecutions of the Christians, which had been discontinued, and were almost forgotten—putting some to death, torturing others, and banishing not a few into Tartary, where they stirred up a spirit of hostility to China. In the first year of his reigu, he issued a decree, prohibiting the importation of opium. That drug was brought to China, as a medicine, in some of the earliest ships that traded to the Celestial empire. It soon began to be used for other purposes; and, in 1767, the amount imported was 1,000 chests per auuum. It was allowed to come in on the payment of five mace per catty, and was mostly delivered to, and bonded by, the governmeut. The importation continuing to increase, and its use being considered prejudicial, Kea-king prohibited it; and from that date the opium traffic with China has been a smuggling transaction. Kea-king was scarcely seated on the throne, when he had to defend himself against rebels; and so numerous and formidable were the insurrections that broke out in every part of the empire, that—a victim himself to licentiousness, and without a spark of heroism in his compositiou—he feared being able to subdue them by force; and he therefore bought off their leaders, promoting them to high offices under his government. For ten years the Chinese coasts were also devastated by pirates—the Ladrones—who, at last, were dealt with in the same way: a peace was made; their chiefs were appointed to command junks in the imperial navy; and the termination of hostilities with these marauders was celebrated by a graud festival at Canton. In 1813 a conspiracy was formed against him by some members of his own family, headed by Liu-king, his favourite eunuch. They had a considerable force at their disposal, and some of them forced their way into the palace, with the avowed intention of putting Kea-king to death, and proclaiming Lin-king his successor. His second son, Ming, put himself at the head of a mere handful of the "Tiger" guards, repulsed the couspirators, two of whom he shot with his own hand (Lin-king being one of them), and thus preserved the life, aud secured the throne of his father.

The intercourse between China and Europe had continued to increase since the commencement of the century; and, in 1802, the flag of the United States of America was first hoisted at Canton. During the war with France, subsequent to that year, that power kept a large naval force in the Chinese seas, with a view to put

a stop, if possible, to both our Chinese and Indian trade. The superiority of England on the ocean, however, was soon established, and our merchants had nothing to contend with but the difficulties the Chinese threw in their way, till 1814, when the capture of two vessels of the United States, by British cruisers—England being then at war with that country—involved the select committee in disputes with the Chinese authorities. The latter wanted the blockade of the United States' ships in the Canton river raised, and the English ships of war sent away. As these demands were not complied with, they prohibited natives from entering into the Company's employ, sent policemen to enter the factory, and seize upon any Chinese whom they might find there; attempted to prevent the passage of the boats of British vessels in the river, and to cut off all communication with the British ships of war. The select committee met these measures by stopping the trade. Notwithstanding all their vexatious proceedings, it appears the consumption of their produce in England was a source of so much profit to the Chinese that they were unwilling to forfeit it; and they immediately sent a mandarin to meet Sir George Staunton, then first commissioner at Canton, for the purpose of negotiating. The interview took place at Canton, on the 20th of October, Sir George being accompanied by Sir Theophilus Metcalfe, and Mr. (now Sir J. F.) Davis. Before much progress had been made in the negotiation, the viceroy suddenly resolved to break it off, and the select committee immediately directed all British subjects to leave Canton; and Sir George Staunton, and the gentlemen with him, embarking on board the *Wexford*, the entire fleet proceeded down the river. This brought the Chinese to their senses. A deputation of the Hong merchants was dispatched to ask Sir George Staunton to return to Canton, and renew the negotiations. They ended, this time, in an agreement, by which "the privilege of corresponding with the government under seal, and in the native character, was, for the first time, established; an assurance was given that no Chinese officer should ever enter the British factory without leave previously obtained; and license was given to native servants to enter into the service of the English, without molestation from the petty mandarins."*

Though this termination of the difference was considered highly satisfactory in England, it was deemed desirable, if possible, to place her commercial intercourse with China upon a surer foundation, and put it out of the power of capricious officials to interfere with, and interrupt, it at their pleasure. For this purpose, in 1816, another embassy was sent to China, with Lord Amherst at its head. His lordship left England on the 10th of February, in the *Alceste* frigate, and arrived at Macao on the 12th of July. There Sir George Staunton, and the secretaries to the select committee, with the other gentlemen who were appointed to accompany the mission to Peking, joined. The *Alceste* was accompanied by the *Lyra* (a government brig) and the *General Hewett* (a Company's ship); and the three vessels arrived in the Gulf of Pe-chee-lee on the 28th of July. The ambassador did not land till the 9th of August; on the 12th, he was entertained at Tien-tsin, at a feast on the part of the emperor; and it was then that the first attempt was made to induce him to perform the Kou-tou. These attempts were repeated; and as Lord Amherst positively refused to submit to such a degradation, he was not received by the emperor. The refusal is attributed, however, rather to the intrigues of the Canton officials (whose conduct was so seriously impugned), than to the non-compliance with a custom, which was not insisted upon in the case of Lord Macartney. The embassy returned to Canton by the interior of China, the vessels having proceeded there as soon as the mission had landed. The Canton authorities displayed their temper in the treatment of these vessels. The Hoppo refused to let the *Hewett* take in a cargo; and the *Alceste* and *Lyra* were prohibited from anchoring at Whampoa. The *Alceste*, however, took no heed of the prohibition, but proceeded very leisurely up the river, and was fired at by some war-junks, and from the fort at the mouth of the Bocca Tigris. A single shot silenced the former; and one broadside caused the garrison to evacuate the fort. The effect of this decided conduct was soon seen. Provisions, in abundance, were sent to the *Alceste;* the *Hewett* was permitted to load; and the firing from the fort and junks was publicly declared to be a salute. The members of the embassy reached Canton on the 1st of January, 1817; the emperor had forwarded a letter for the prince-regent, to the viceroy, with orders to deliver it himself into Lord Amherst's hands; and having received it, the mission returned. In the letter, the emperor, alluding to the refusal of his lordship to perform the Kou-tou, said—"I have sent these ambassadors home to their own country, without punishing them for the high crime they have committed."

This embassy was accompanied to Peking by the Rev. Robert Morrison, one of the most remarkable men whose name is connected with the British intercourse with China. His ancestors were Scottish husbandmen; but his father, quitting Perthshire and the plough, became a mechanic and a man of substance, and Robert was born at Morpeth, on the 5th of January, 1782. In his youth, he is described as being "somewhat loose and profane"—bad qualities, which were soon substituted by others of the highest description. His education completed, he resolved—and that from the impression he felt of the claims of the cause of missions—to become a missionary; and his services being offered to, and accepted by, the London Missionary Society, he was, in 1804, appointed to the Chinese mission which that society resolved to establish. He immediately commenced the study of the Chinese language; and, in 1807, sailed for Canton, where he arrived on the 7th of September in the same year. At that time there appeared no prospect of success for a protestant missionary in China. Whilst the Chinese government and authorities forbade all attempts at propagating the gospel, the East India Company forbade any person under their rule to stay in the country, except for trading purposes. For some time, Mr. Morrison attempted to evade observation by walking about in a Chinese frock, and with thick Chinese shoes—wearing a tail, allowing his nails to grow, and eating with chopsticks. He is said, subsequently, to have disapproved of this course, though it doubtless afforded him facilities for acquiring that accurate knowledge of the language, which enabled him to prepare a Chinese version of the Scriptures, and to compile a Chinese grammar and dictionary. Ill-health, brought on by fatigue, caused him to remove to Macao; and, after his return to Canton, all Englishmen being ordered away, he again went to the Portuguese settlement, where he married, in

* Davis.

February, 1809. Soon after, he was appointed Chinese secretary, and translator to the East India Company, with a salary of £1,000 per annum. He continued to reside at Macao, as no European female was then suffered to remain at Canton; and there, in 1813, he was joined by the Rev. W. Milne, who subsequently settled at Malacca, which was made the head-quarters of the mission. In July, 1814, the first Chinese protestant convert was baptized "at a spring of water issuing from the foot of a lofty hill by the sea-side." The journey of Mr. Morrison to Peking, in 1816, afforded him a little relaxation after four years' study and application to his translations, &c. His services were of the greatest use to the embassy; and, on its arrival at Canton, he again returned to Macao, where he prosecuted his labours with undiminished zeal.

Kea-king died in 1820, and he bequeathed the imperial crown to his second son, Mung, on account of his gallantry in suppressing the revolt of 1813; who, on ascending the throne, took the name of Taoeu-kwang, "The Glory of Reason." His personal character was greatly superior to that of his father; but he did not display, on the throne, the vigour which had caused his elevation: on the contrary, he led a life of effeminacy, leaving the conduct of affairs chiefly to his ministers. He signalised his accession by the expulsion from Peking of the last of those European missionaries who, on account of their astronomical knowledge, had been attached, for 200 years in succession, to that board whose function it is to observe the celestial bodies; and, subsequently, his reign was greatly troubled by rebellions. Indeed, much as those of his predecessors were disturbed by domestic strife, it is said, that "in no one reign has there been chronicled so many calamities and open insurrections (in almost every province of China proper), as under Taoeu-kwang." Of these calamities and insurrections we have no detailed accounts; but there was an important war with a foreign power during his reign; and his choice of ministers is supposed not only to have been the cause of the quarrel with England, but also to have led to that insurrection, especially against the Mantchoo race, which still rages in China. These ministers were selected "from amongst those statesmen who, in the eyes of the people, were the faithful guardians of Chinese traditions." * * * "Chinese to the backbone, and full of superb disdain for barbarians, they led their country into a disastrous war, because they did not understand that the moment was come for them to descend from the diplomatic elevation, upon which their presumption and European forbearance had so long maintained them; and the same resistance to the spirit of the times brought on the insurrection,"* whose history we shall subsequently trace.

Notwithstanding the failure of Lord Amherst's mission, the trade of the East India Company with China continued to increase, though all efforts to extend it beyond the province of Canton failed, except with respect to opium, the demand for which, notwithstanding the decree of 1796, prohibiting its importation, continued to increase. For several years the chief emporium of this trade was Macao; but, in 1822, in consequence of the exactions of the Portuguese, it was taken to Lintin—a small island between Macao and the Bocca Tigris. The smuggling of the drug into the country was either neglected or connived at by the Chinese authorities; and as the surreptitious trade extended along the whole coast of China to the eastward, it was thought a similar trade might be established for manufactured goods. The attempt was made, and failed.—The *Lord Amherst*, a small Company's ship, was, in the year 1832, fitted out, and sent, under the command of one of the Company's servants, to try the experiment; M. Gutzlaff, a missionary well versed in the spoken language of China, accompanying him. In some instances the English were well received; in others, their advances were repelled; but everywhere commerce was prevented by the mandarins, except in one or two trivial instances. The loss on the *Amherst's* voyage was £5,647; and, in the report that was made of it, it was stated, that "much alarm and suspicion had invariably been manifested, on the part of the local governments, at their appearance; and to *fear*, might be mainly attributed the civility which, on some occasions, they exhibited."† Still the opium trade continued, and it was a source of considerable revenue to the East India Company, who had a strict monopoly of the drug in India; and the chief supply came from that country.

In 1833, the monopoly till that year enjoyed by the East India Company, of the trade to India and China, was abolished; and the traffic was not only thrown open to merchants generally, like that to all other parts of the world, but the Company was prohibited from trading at all, and their commercial property and shipping were sold at a great loss. Previous to this step being taken, a select committee of the House of Commons had been appointed to inquire into the state of the Company, as had always been the case when the time fixed for the termination of its charter (which, since 1784, had been renewed for periods of twenty years) arrived; and several witnesses, before that committee, declared their opinion, that "the removal of the China trade from the management and control of the Company would be attended by a great increase of smuggling, and by an aggravation of all those circumstances which were calculated to embroil the English with the government of China."‡ The Duke of Wellington was firmly of opinion that, if the trade were thrown open, the Company should still be permitted to trade, simultaneously with other British merchants; and that the management of the traffic should still be left in the hands of their officials. His Grace was, however, overruled; and the government was authorised to appoint three superintendents of the trade with China, and to invest them with certain powers and authorities. Lord Napier, Mr. Davis, and Sir George Robinson were the three first superintendents or commissioners; and Dr. Morrison was appointed the Chinese secretary to the commission. This reverend gentleman, subsequent to his return to Macao, had, in conjunction with the Rev. W. Milne, diligently carried on the translation of the Scriptures into Chinese, in which they were assisted by a Chinese convert, Leang-a-fa, well-known to those who are conversant with the history of the Chinese missions; who was baptized by Mr. Milne in November, 1816, and subsequently had his wife and child baptized—"forming," says Dr. Morrison, in one of his letters, "a little Christian family in this pagan land."§ Towards the close of 1819, an entire Chinese version of the Bible

* *L'Insurrection en Chine.* Par MM. Callery et Yvan. † Davis. ‡ *Ibid.*

§ Writing from Macao, in 1827, Dr. Morrison says—"Leang-a-fa, the native evangelist, is in Canton, printing tracts of his own composition, for the Tract Society. Agang, his colleague, is working my lithographic press."

appeared, chiefly the work of Dr. Morrison; and the Anglo-Chinese college at Malacca was established, and liberally endowed by him. In 1821 he became a widower, and, at the close of 1823, he returned to Europe, visiting France, England, Ireland, and Scotland. He married again, and returned to China in 1827. Once more he resumed the labours of the past; and he died on the 1st of August, 1834, shortly after his appointment as secretary to the commission.

The commissioners had a very difficult task to perform. When Lord Napier arrived at Canton, on the 25th of July, 1833, the viceroy refused to receive him, as his appointment had not been notified to, and approved by, the emperor; and, in taking this course, the Chinese official had the practice of European governments to appeal to. His lordship, on his part, declined to correspond with the Hong merchants, through whom the more immediate commercial business had been transacted previously by the select committee. The viceroy not only refused Lord Napier's letter of introduction, but various acts of annoyance and indignity were offered to his lordship—his baggage being broken open, his residence beset with soldiers, his native servants driven away, and his supplies of provisions cut off. Not knowing to what lengths the Chinese might proceed, his lordship ordered Captain Blackwood, commanding the *Imogene* and *Andromache*, lying in the estuary of the Pearl River, to proceed to the anchorage of the merchant ships at Whampoa. Accordingly, early on the morning of the 7th of September, the two ships effected the passage of the Bocca Tigris. One of the batteries opened a fire upon the vessels; but they passed within pistol-shot, and a broadside knocked the stones of the battery about the ears of the garrison. One man was killed, and a few wounded, on board the ships, which, owing to baffling winds, did not reach the Whampoa anchorage till the 11th of September. The appearance of the vessels produced no effect. The viceroy had prohibited all trade, and he refused to permit the communication to be reopened till the frigates had retired and Lord Napier had withdrawn. Not feeling warranted in resorting to extremities, his lordship embarked for Macao on the 21st of September, having ordered the frigates to proceed to Lintin. He had been indisposed when he left Canton, and became so much worse after his arrival at Macao, that he resigned as first superintendent, and Mr. Davis was appointed to succeed him. That gentleman abolished the office of master-attendant, held by Captain Elliot, and then rendered unnecessary by the abandonment, in England, of the scheme for levying duties on the ships in the Canton river; and appointed the captain secretary to the commission. Mr. Morrison, son of the late Dr. Morrison, was nominated Chinese secretary; and the services of M. Gutzlaff were secured as joint interpreter.

Mr. Davis being obliged soon to go to England, Sir George Robinson became chief superintendent; and, during 1835 and 1836, the public affairs at Canton proceeded in uninterrupted quiet; though one result of the opening of the trade was to give an immediate stimulus to smuggling of every kind; and the illicit traffic, especially in opium, continued to increase, and that to such a degree as to attract the notice of the government at Peking. Writing in 1838, Captain Elliot, who had then succeeded Sir G. Robinson as chief superintendent, says—"There seems no longer any room to doubt that the court has finally determined to suppress, or, more probably, most extensively to check, the opium trade. The immense, and, it must be said, the most unfortunate, increase of the supply during the last four years, the rapid growth of the east trade in opium, and the continued drain of the silver, have, no doubt, greatly alarmed the government." Hitherto confined to Lintin, where the opium was transferred from the importing vessels to Chinese junks always lying to receive it, the trade penetrated within the Bocca Tigris; and this Sir J. Davis thinks exasperated the Peking government. Small boats passed up the river with opium to Canton; which led to the seizure of the offenders where they could be found, and sometimes to the apprehension of innocent men. In September, 1838, an attempt by the Chinese authorities to execute a native opium-dealer immediately before the factories, led to an affray between the Europeans and the Chinese, in which the former would probably have suffered severely, had not the Chinese soldiers dispersed the mob. After this event Captain Elliot took active steps to repress the traffic. He served notices on all British-owned boats actually engaged in it, to proceed outside or fall below the Bocca Tigris; and, on the 18th of December, he issued a circular, in which all her majesty's subjects concerned in the opium trade were warned, that if any native came by his or her death in the course of that illicit traffic, they would be subject to trial in the same manner as if they were within the jurisdiction of her majesty's courts at Westminster. He also offered to co-operate with the Chinese government in their efforts to put down the river-smuggling; and, if the Chinese authorities had acted promptly with the English superintendent, there is little doubt but that the traffic might have been suppressed, at all events in the Pearl River; and greatly reduced elsewhere.

The government at Peking resolved to send Lin, a Chinese of rank, as a kin-chae, or special imperial commissioner, to Canton, and it was intimated, that he would take unusually strong measures to suppress the opium traffic, and punish the offenders. The appointment of this functionary was announced by a proclamation issued in January, 1839, by the local government of Canton. His arrival was preceded by a native opium smuggler being publicly strangled in the square before the foreign factories, the presence of a considerable body of troops rendering all opposition on the part of the Europeans useless. The European flags were immediately hauled down, and remonstrances made; to which no answer was returned, but tents were pitched, troops assembled, junks collected, and a numerous display of old vessels, prepared and preparing to serve as fire-ships, was made under the forts at the Bocca Tigris. The imperial commissioner arrived in March; and, immediately upon his arrival, issued an edict to the foreigners, demanding that every particle of opium on board the ships should be delivered to the government, in order that it might be burned and destroyed. A bond was also required, in the foreign and Chinese languages, engaging that "the ships should never again dare to bring opium;" and that, "if any should be brought, it should be forfeited, and the parties suffer death;" moreover, it was to be declared that "such punishment would be willingly submitted to." Lin plainly threatened, that if his requisitions were not complied with, the foreigners would be overwhelmed by numbers, and sacrificed.

On hearing of these proceedings, Captain Elliot, then at Macao, proceeded to Canton, where he summoned the foreign community together, and exhorted them to be moderate and calm. The same night, the native servants were removed; the supplies cut off; an arc of boats was formed, filled with armed men, the extremes of which touched the east and west banks of the river in front of the factories; the square between, and the rear, were occupied in strong force, and the factories were placed in a state of strict blockade. Under these circumstances, the superintendent, having no force at his command, and believing that a mass of human life would be sacrificed if concessions were not made, issued a circular to his countrymen, requiring them to deliver up to him all the English opium actually on the coast of China at that date. On the 3rd of April, the deputy-superintendent proceeded down the river, with the mandarins and Hong merchants, and 20,283 chests of opium, from the ships below the Bocca Tigris, were placed in their hands. On the 4th of May, the opium having all been delivered at Canton, the state of imprisonment and blockade there ceased; leave was given for all to quit, except sixteen individuals, who ultimately took their departure, under an edict never to return; and Captain Elliot wrote to Lord Auckland, then governor-general of India, stating the occurrences by which the great trade of Canton was broken up, "perhaps for ever;" and requesting his lordship to send him as many armed vessels as could be spared from India, for the protection of life and property. That both were in danger was evident from the steps taken by the authorities at Canton, who ordered all unlicensed merchants and shopkeepers to remove, and the streets in which they resided were blocked up; barriers were built across others; the factories were stockaded; the terraces torn down; and all the foreigners were little better than prisoners. Captain Elliot took steps to liberate the English, and remained till he saw them safe on board the vessels, and on their way to Macao; and then, on the 25th of May, he repaired to that port himself. His conduct, throughout these transactions, was highly eulogised in the House of Lords, by the Duke of Wellington.*

June had scarcely set in, when preparations were made for the destruction of the opium surrendered, which occupied twenty days. It was soon found, however, that in attempting to control the public taste, and to compel the Chinese to give up the pleasure derived from the drug, was a task beyond the powers of the authorities. Instead of the traffic being put an end to, the seizure of the cargoes in the Pearl River, and the destruction of so large a quantity, gave a stimulus to the smuggling trade on the eastern coast; and, in many places, the natives are said to have entered into an organisation to procure opium, which the government did not venture to oppose.

On the 26th of August, all the British residents at Macao followed Captain Elliot to Hong-Kong; and on the 31st Lin issued a proclamation to the natives, calling upon them to arm, and resist the "barbarians." On the 4th of September, Captain Elliot's cutter, the pinnace of the *Volage*, and a small armed schooner (the *Pearl*), fell-in, near Koo-lung, with three large war-junks, employed in preventing any of the natives from supplying the British with provisions. The junks were protected by a large and well-manned fort; and from them and the fort a fire was opened upon the English vessels, by whom it was briskly returned. The affair ended in the junks being compelled to retire up the river, where they should have been followed and destroyed. October passed quietly; but, on the 3rd of November, there was another affair of junks. Some merchant vessels still endeavoured to carry on trade; and Admiral Kwan, or Chin, collected twenty-nine armed junks to destroy them. Captain Smith, of the *Volage*, with that vessel and the *Hyacinth*, attacked this numerous fleet; blew up one, sunk three, and water-logged several. The admiral fought his boats well; but in little more than half-an-hour they were compelled to retire; and this—the safety of the merchant vessels being secured—they were permitted to do. On the 26th of November, an edict was issued, commanding the trade with the British entirely to cease after the 6th of December; and on the 5th of January, 1840, a proclamation appeared from the emperor, ordering that trade to be interdicted "for ever."

As it appeared certain that war must ensue, the home government had resolved to send a sufficient force to China, to maintain the honour of England, and to protect the subjects of the queen. The squadron (which had 4,000 troops on board) was commanded by Rear-admiral the Hon. George Elliot, C.B.; Commodore Sir J. J. Gordon Bremer, C.B., being the second in command. It comprised the following vessels:—

Melville, Captain the Hon. W. S. Dundas, 74 guns; *Wellesley*, Captain T. Maitland, 74; *Blenheim*, Captain Sir H. S. Fleming Senhouse, K.C.B., 74; *Druid*, Captain Smith, 44; *Blonde*, Captain F. Bourchier, 44; *Volage*, Captain G. Elliot, 28; *Conway*, Captain C. D. Bethune, 28; *Alligator*, Captain H. Kuper, 28; *Larne*, Captain J. P. Blake, 20; *Hyacinth*, Captain W. Warren, 20; *Modeste*, Commander H. Eyres, 20; *Pylades*, Captain T. V. Anson, 20; *Nimrod*, Captain C. A. Barlow, 20; *Cruiser*, Captain H. W. Giffard, 18; *Columbine*, Commander J. T. Clarke, 18; *Algerine*, Captain T. S. Mason, 10; *Rattlesnake* (troop-ship), Captain Brodie. COMPANY'S ARMED STEAMERS—*Queen*, Captain Warden; *Enterprise*, Captain West; *Madagascar*, Captain Dicey; *Louisa* (cutter); *Atlantic*, Commodore Rogers.

These vessels began to arrive early in June, and by the 21st all were collected in the estuary of the Pearl River, except the *Melville*, bearing Admiral Elliot's flag. Sir Gordon Bremer arrived in the *Wellesley* on the 21st; and, as the Chinese had shown their hostile disposition by sending eight junks and three large boats to attack the British ship *Hellas* on the 22nd of May (all the crew of which vessel were wounded—the master severely), and had, on the 9th of June, floated down a number of fire-rafts to destroy the British ships of war which had then arrived, Sir Gordon issued a notice on the 22nd of June, declaring that, on and after the 28th, the river and port of Canton would be strictly blockaded. On the 30th he sailed northwards, in the direction of Chusan, taking with him the *Wellesley*, *Conway*, *Volage*, *Blonde*, *Alligator*, *Algerine*, and *Hebe*, with the Company's vessels, the *Queen*, *Atalanta*, and *Madagascar*; and transports conveying troops. Admiral Elliot arrived at Macao in the *Melville*, on the 28th of June; and having taken Captain Elliot on board—with whom he was

* Our authority for the foregoing summary is chiefly the narrative of Sir John Davis.

associated in his diplomatic duties, the two being nominated joint plenipotentiaries for settling all matters in dispute with the emperor—he sailed northwards after Sir Gordon Bremer.

On the 2nd of July, the *Blonde* being off the island of Amoy, and Captain Bourchier wishing to open a friendly communication, he dispatched a boat, on board of which a flag of truce was flying, to the shore. This boat was fired upon, and the officers insulted. As soon as they returned to the ship from their unsuccessful mission, Captain Bourchier opened a terrific fire on the batteries and war-junks, inflicting great damage, and scattering the troops in all directions. On the 4th, the *Wellesley*, *Conway*, and *Alligator* took up a position in the harbour of Ting-hai, in the island of Chusan, which was taken on the 5th; ninety-one guns being amongst the spoil.* On the 10th, a blockade was established, for a considerable distance along the Chinese coast, on each side of the Canton river: and about the same time a proclamation was circulated, signed by the Chinese commissioner Lin, offering rewards for the destruction of British vessels, and the capture of British officers and men. One of the first victims to this proclamation was Mr. Stanton, a British merchant, who was seized by kidnappers on the 6th of August, and carried to Canton. On the 19th of August, Captain Smith, in the *Diana*, with the *Hyacinth* and *Larne*, attacked a Chinese force collected at Macao. The "braves" were driven away, their guns spiked, about sixty killed, and their barracks burned, the British losing only four men. On the 16th of September, Captain Anstruther was seized at Chusan, tied up in a sack, and conveyed to Ningpo, where he was subsequently exposed in a bamboo cage. If any seamen strayed ashore they were treated with the greatest barbarity; and this caused the English seamen to entertain feelings of great bitterness against the Chinese.

The capture of Chusan, and the appearance of Captain Elliot, followed by several armed vessels at Tient-sen, in the Pei-ho, caused the Chinese to temporise; and a commissioner, named Keshen, was sent on board the *Madagascar*, to confer with the chief superintendent. If the "braves" could not stand against our troops in the field, the Chinese negotiants beat ours in the cabinet. Keshen—appointed imperial commissioner, to supersede Lin, who was disgraced—persuaded the Elliots to sign a truce on the 6th of November; and then induced them to transfer the negotiations to Canton. The squadron which had approached so near Peking, accordingly returned to the south, arriving off Macao on the 20th. On the 29th, Admiral Elliot resigned his command, and also his office of plenipotentiary; but the negotiations went on; and on the 12th of December, Mr. Stanton was released. But while, as was supposed, the hostile parties were coming to an accommodation, an edict appeared on the 6th of January, 1841, ordering every Englishman and all English ships to be destroyed, wherever they should be met with near Canton. This edict being a gross and daring violation of the truce, on the 7th the forts of Chuen-pee and Ty-cock-tow were attacked, and captured by a British force. One division of the fleet, under Captain Herbert, attacked Chuen-pee; a second, under Captain Scott, Ty-cock-tow. There was a large force on the latter island, which received the British with deafening shouts, beating of gongs, vociferous threatenings, and finally, a general cannonade from their numerous guns. The British advanced calmly and firmly, drove the Chinese before them, and climbing a steep hill which commanded the enemy's camp, planted the union-flag over a watch-tower on its summit. At Chuen-pee the Chinese made a desperate resistance: 600 Chinese fell either in their intrenchments, or in the huts to which they fled for refuge; while "we had *not one* killed, and only thirty wounded, many of whom were hurt through the blowing-up of a magazine." The triumph of our fleet was equally complete, "eleven war-junks, including the admiral's, having been destroyed."

The same day, the *Nemesis*, *Sulphur*, *Calliope*, *Starling* (which had recently joined the squadron with the *Samarang* and *Herald*), and *Larne*, attacked a number of war-junks lying in Anson's Bay. The chief of the work fell upon the *Nemesis*. A rocket, discharged from her decks, penetrated into the magazine of one of the junks, which blew up; and she steamed up the bay, where the Chinese thought so large a ship could not have floated, and brought off two others. All the junks stationed there were captured or destroyed. The next day, preparations were made for attacking the Bogue Forts; Admiral Kwan, however, solicited another armistice, which Captain Elliot very improperly agreed to. Keshen now appeared disposed to bring matters to a conclusion; and on the 20th of January, Captain Elliot announced that a treaty had been signed, by which it was provided,—

1st. That the island and harbour of Hong-Kong should be ceded to England. 2nd. That the British government should receive an indemnity of 6,000,000 dollars—1,000,000 to be paid directly, and the rest by equal yearly instalments. 3rd. That there should be direct official intercourse between the two countries, upon an equal footing. 4th. That trade with Canton should be reopened within ten days after the 2nd of February (the Chinese New Year's Day); and that commerce was to be carried on at Whampoa till arrangements had been made for carrying it on at Hong-Kong.

On the 26th of January, formal possession was taken of Hong-Kong; and it was supposed that the war was really at an end. But on the 11th of February, Keshen received an edict from Peking, disapproving of the terms of the treaty, and refusing the emperor's assent to them; and, on the 23rd, hostilities were resumed. On the 24th Chusan was evacuated, in order that the English force might be concentrated; and, on the 25th, a Chinese proclamation appeared, offering rewards for the bodies of Englishmen, whether dead or alive; 50,000 dollars being the sum stipulated to be paid for any of the commanders.

Sir Gordon Bremer, now the commander-in-chief, resolved to proceed at once to Canton. On the 26th of February, the Bogue Forts, situated on the islands of Anunghoy and North Wantung, at the mouth of the Bocca Tigris, were taken, after some sharp fighting, in which Admiral Kwan was killed: 459 guns were captured in them. On the 27th, the *Calliope*, *Samarang*, *Herald*, *Alligator*, *Sulphur*, and *Nemesis* (called the "light squadron"), under Captain Herbert of the *Calliope*, proceeded up the river towards Canton, attacking and capturing, on their way, the forts and batteries on the island of Whampoa, and the ship *Cambridge*, which the Chinese had, some time before, purchased from the English, and had filled up with thirty-four guns. On the 2nd of March, Sir

* See vol. i., p. 76.

Hugh Gough arrived, having been sent by the governor-general of India, to take the command of the land forces: and on the 3rd, the prefect of Canton visited Captain Elliot, under a flag of truce, and induced him to consent to another suspension of hostilities for three days.

On the 6th of March hostilities were resumed—Napier's Fort (situated on a small island to the northward of Whampoa, and named after Lord Napier) being occupied by the English, and a proclamation issued to the people of Canton, in which they were told, that, if they remained quiet, and left fighting to "the braves," the city would be spared. On the 12th, Keshen, who had been degraded, and deprived of his valuable property, left Canton a prisoner; and on the 16th—the *Nemesis*, *Samarang*, and *Atalanta*, having returned from a successful cruise—Captain Elliot sent the first-named vessel to Canton, with a despatch for the person then chief in authority, his object being still not to push hostilities to the extreme. The steamer hoisted a flag of truce, and similar flags were hoisted on board the boats which accompanied her. They were, nevertheless, fired upon from a fort called "Bird's-eye Fort," standing close to the city. Captain Herbert was ordered to punish this aggression with all possible promptitude; and he carried out his orders most gallantly. The vessels engaged were the *Modeste*, the *Algerine*, the *Starling*, and the *Herald;* the *Hope* and *Louisa* tenders; and the *Nemesis* and *Madagascar* steamers. The Bird's-eye, the Rouge, the Shameen, and the Dutch Folly forts, were captured; a number of junks were destroyed in Fatee Creek—an inlet of the Pearl River, on the west, opposite Canton; and all the foreign factories, and 461 guns, were taken possession of. Instead of taking the city, which was completely at his mercy, Captain Elliot, the next day, sought an interview with the Chinese commissioner, Yang-Sang; and on the 20th it was announced that a suspension of hostilities had been agreed to. Trade was immediately resumed; but Sir Gordon Bremer, not being satisfied with the conduct of the chief superintendent, left the squadron, and proceeded to Calcutta, to consult with the governor-general. On the 14th of April, two other commissioners, Lung-Wan and Yih-Shan, were appointed to act with Yang-Sang. The trio amused Captain Elliot for some time, and, deceived by their professions, he ordered the vessels of war to fall lower down the river. The Chinese, it appeared, only wanted to gain time. May was ushered in with hostile proclamations from Peking; by the 8th of that month, numerous reinforcements, in boats and men, had arrived at Canton; and though, on the 10th, Captain Elliot went himself to that city to have an interview with the commissioners, taking Mrs. Elliot with him, to inspire more confidence, the Chinese were bent on trying still further the fortune of war, and he found it necessary to prepare to attack that city for the third time.

Wishing to have a larger force than on the former occasion, Captain Elliot went to Hong-Kong to collect more ships. On the 21st of May, the squadron, under the command of Sir Fleming Senhouse, was moored in front of the factories; and the superintendent issued a proclamation, advising the merchants, who had again resorted to the city, to make their preparations for leaving at a moment's notice. The same day, the Chinese made an attempt to destroy the British ships with fire-rafts, which failed; and, on the 23rd, operations were commenced against Canton. The troops were landed in five divisions, numbering 134 officers, and 2,620 men; viz., the right column, the 26th regiment, under Major Pratt; the left brigade, the 49th regiment, under Lieutenant-colonel Morris; the artillery, under Colonel Knowles; the naval brigade, under Captain Bourchier; the reserve, the royal marines, and 18th royal Irish, under Major-general Burrell. Sir Hugh Gough took the chief command. In the night the factories were occupied; and, on the 24th, several of the forts on the east and west of the city were taken—the British flag waved on the walls, and the conquerors looked down on Canton. On the 25th, the forts on the White Cloud Mountains, to the north of the city, were occupied, and ninety guns captured. On the 26th, while the troops were engaged in getting up the heavy guns and ammunition, and preparing for the final assault, Captain Elliot, unknown to General Gough, concluded a truce with Yang-Sang; and the next morning, just as the troops were about to be led up to the walls, it was announced to their commander, that hostilities were to be suspended, with the additional information, that the city was to be ransomed by the payment of 6,000,000 dollars. One million was paid on the 28th; 4,000,000 more on the 31st; and security being given for the remainder, on the 1st of June all the troops were withdrawn. On the 16th of July trade was reopened.

The proceedings of Captain Elliot were not approved by the military and naval authorities in the East; they met with as little favour at home; and it was now resolved to supersede him. Sir Henry Pottinger succeeded him as superintendent; and Sir William Parker assumed the command of the fleet. These officials arrived in Macao roads on the 10th of August. Sir Henry Pottinger immediately proceeded up the Pearl River, and, on the 12th, issued a proclamation stating the objects of his mission, which were to conclude an honourable, and what promised to be a durable, peace. Having announced his arrival to the Chinese authorities, as "minister extraordinary and sole plenipotentiary, as well as chief superintendent of trade," he offered to treat with any one of equal rank; but refused to give an audience to the prefect of Canton, who was inferior to himself in every respect. As no plenipotentiary arrived from Peking, it was resolved that active operations should recommence, and that the first movement should be against Amoy.

We have already described the successful attack upon Amoy.* The capture of that important city—where, and in the forts and batteries, 296 guns were found and destroyed—was followed, on the 17th of September, by the capture of the fort and island of Sheipoo, where five junks were destroyed, and thirty guns, with a number of small arms, taken. On the 1st of October, the city of Ting-hae was again captured,† and the island of Chusan recaptured. The next movement was upon Ningpo, which was commanded by the town and fortress of Ching-hai.‡ This place was captured on the 10th of October;§ and on the 13th, Ningpo was taken possession of.‖ These losses, if made known at Peking, produced no impression on the emperor; for, in November, he issued another edict, urging the extermination of all the English. The latter resolved to winter at Ningpo; and as it was ascertained that the Chinese were collecting troops in the neighbouring towns, to cut off communication with

* See vol. i., p. 86. † *Ibid.*, p. 76. ‡ *Ibid.*, p. 178. § *Ibid.*, pp. 179—181. ‖ *Ibid.*, p. 84.

the natives, if not to attempt to retake the city, an expedition, consisting of the *Nemesis*, *Sesostris*, and *Phlegethon* steamers (the two latter new arrivals), was sent up the river in December, and captured the towns of Yu-yaou, Tsze-kee, and Foong-hua. An extensive depôt of arms, ammunition, and clothing was discovered at Yu-yaou.

The months of January and February, 1842, afforded few incidents; but the Chinese were organising their strength; and, on the 10th of March, from 10,000 to 12,000 "braves" attacked Ningpo and Ching-hai simultaneously. They were repulsed with considerable slaughter, and left behind them about 600 killed, besides wounded, whom they could not carry off. A large force, between 7,000 and 8,000 in number (a considerable part of it consisting of the emperor's body-guard), still remained, strongly posted near Tsze-kee. On the 15th, about 1,000 of the British, under Sir Hugh Gough, attacked this force, and although the Tartars fought well, totally dispersed it. In April the British received reinforcements; and in May it was resolved to attack the important town of Chapoo.* As the force was not sufficiently numerous to be divided, Ningpo was evacuated on the 17th; and on the 18th, Chapoo was captured.† The troops rested there for three weeks, when they again embarked, and on the 13th of June entered the Yang-tze-kiang, one of the noblest rivers in the world. On the 16th, the town of Woosung, standing at the mouth of a river of that name, a tributary of the Yang-tze-kiang, was taken, with 230 guns, after a brave defence. The army then advanced to Shanghai, about seven miles from Woosung, by land, but double that distance by the river. This town surrendered on the 19th of June, after a very faint resistance, being deserted by the troops. A quantity of arms and military stores was found in the arsenal; and 171 cannon were taken, only twenty-three of which, however, were of any value.

On the 5th of July, Sir Henry Pottinger issued a proclamation from Shanghai, explanatory of the complaints and demands of Great Britain; the latter including indemnity for losses and expenses; the establishment of a friendly intercourse, upon equal terms, between the two countries; and the cession of towns and territory for commerce, the residence of merchants, and as a guarantee against future aggressions. The next day the British fleet advanced up the Yang-tze-kiang; on the 20th, it anchored off the "Golden Island;"‡ and on the 21st, the maritime city of Chin-kiang-foo, forty-eight miles N.E. of Nanking, was invested. It was defended by a numerous Tartar force, and taken after a brave defence—and one more scientifically conducted, than that of any other place which fell into the hands of the British during the war. After its surrender, the Tartar general and many of the garrison committed suicide. The city suffered much from pillage, but chiefly from that of Chinese plunderers, who flocked to it in great numbers after the Tartar troops had left it; and the British had much difficulty in restoring anything like order. They found about 60,000 dollars' worth of Sycee silver in the public coffers; and much ammunition and stores in the public offices. As soon as the men had obtained sufficient rest, the main body of the fleet and army moved on Nanking,§ which the advanced ships reached on the 4th of August. On the 9th the rest of the fleet arrived, and the disembarkation of troops commenced. On the 13th all was ready for the attack, which was to have been made the next day; but three officials—Keying, a Tartar general belonging to the imperial family; Neu-kién, a general of the two Kiang provinces; and Elepoo, an imperial commissioner—had arrived at Nanking to treat for peace. In the night of the 13th, these plenipotentiaries sent a letter to Sir Henry Pottinger, begging him to delay hostilities for a few hours; and the next morning they produced the emperor's commission, authorising them to conclude a treaty. On the 20th, a visit of ceremony was paid by the Chinese negotiators to Sir Henry Pottinger, on board the *Cornwallis;* on the 24th, the chief superintendent, Sir Hugh Gough, and Sir William Parker, returned this visit in form; on the 26th, the negotiations commenced in earnest; and, on the 29th, the treaty was signed. The terms were—

1. Lasting peace and friendship to be established between the two nations.—2. China to pay 21,000,000 dollars [*i.e.* 6,000,000 for the destroyed opium; 3,000,000 for debts due to the English by the Hong merchants; and 12,000,000 to the British government for the expenses of the war], 6,000,000 to be paid at once, and the rest in three equal yearly payments.—3. The ports of Canton, Amoy, Foutchow, Ningpo, and Shanghai to be thrown open to British merchants; consular officers to be appointed to reside there; and regular and just tariffs of import, export, and import transit duties to be established.—4. The island of Hong-Kong to be ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain.—5. All subjects of her Britannic majesty, in confinement in China, to be released.—6. An amnesty to be accorded to all Chinese subjects who might have aided or taken part with the British during the war.—7. Correspondence to be conducted on terms of perfect equality between the officers of each government.—8 On the payment of 6,000,000 dollars, all the British forces to be withdrawn, except from the islands of Chusan and Ko-lung-foo, which were to be held as a guarantee, until the opening of the ports and the money payments were concluded.

On the 8th of September, the emperor signified his assent to this treaty, unpalatable as it must have been. On the 31st of December, the great seal of England was attached by Lord Lyndhurst, then lord chancellor; and on the 22nd of July, 1843, a proclamation was issued by Sir Henry Pottinger, announcing that the ratifications had been exchanged with all the formalities. The trade, upon the new system, was commenced at Canton on the 27th, and shortly after, an imperial edict was issued, declaring the other four ports open to British commerce. In the month of October, a supplementary treaty was concluded, under which the British were to have access to Canton. In the following February, Sir H. Pottinger returned to England, and was succeeded by Mr. (now Sir J. F.) Davis.

The years 1843-'4-'5-'6 passed over with little to notice, either in the European intercourse with the Chinese empire, or in its internal concerns; though the country was far from tranquil. One of the results of the treaty of Nanking was the establishment of protestant missions at Shanghai, where numerous Europeans have settled; their dwellings, and factories or hongs, being, as at Canton, outside the Chinese city. The first missionary settlement was made there by the London Missionary Society, two of whose labourers, Dr. Medhurst‖ and Mr. Lockhart, arrived there with the British consul, in December, 1843. The Church Missionary, the Wesleyans, and the Bible Society, and others, have since followed; and ten societies have sent out fifty-seven missionaries in

* See vol. i., p. 125. † Vol. i., pp. 126, 127. ‡ See *ante*, p. 48. § See vol. i., p. 146.
‖ Dr. Medhurst left Shanghai in 1856; and died on the 24th of January, 1857. three days after he had landed in England.

sixteen years, thirty-seven of whom were recently residing at Shanghai. Protestant missions were also opened at Niugpo, and the other ceded ports; but though the labours of the missionaries have been incessant, and they have been self-denying and sincere Christian ministers—and though, since 1854, the printing presses, especially those of the Bible Society, have been actively at work at Shanghai—but little has as yet been done in evangelising the Chinese.—Commerce went on at Canton and the ceded ports, with little interruption, till 1847. The Chinese had, however, gradually relapsed into their old customs of annoyance and restraint; and towards the close of 1846, these became so serious, that Sir John Davis made various representations to the authorities; and at length sent in the following formal demands:—

1st. That a distinct recognition should be given of the right of the British to go such a distance in the surrounding country, as could be traversed, either by land or water in one day, out and home, and full protection in their perambulations, from insult and attacks by the populace.—2nd. That a space of ground of about fifty acres, at Honan, or in some other convenient part of the suburbs, should be granted for the erection of warehouses and dwelling-houses.—3rd. That a site should be appropriated for a church and churchyard, for British residents.—4th. That a site for a burial-ground, for the Parsee community, should be set apart, either on Davis or French island, of an area of forty thousand square feet.

There were some other items of less consequence; and, as they were peremptorily refused, an expedition sailed from Houg-Kong about the 1st of April, 1847, under General d'Aquilar, to enforce them. Having arrived at the Bocca Tigris, the troops disembarked, on the 5th, in front of the forts. Showers of grape were poured on them as they approached the batteries, but the guns were so badly directed, that no loss was sustained. The forts were soon taken, and 879 pieces of heavy cannon were spiked, or otherwise rendered unserviceable. The Chinese high commissioner, Keying, waited on Sir John Davis the next day, and the demands of the British were complied with. The trade was then carried on, with occasional complaints of misconduct on both sides, for several years, and kept constantly increasing in value and importance.

In 1848 there were serious insurrectionary movements in the southern provinces of Hoo-nan, Kwang-see, and Kwantung; one numerous body of rebels committing great outrages within 120 miles of Canton, capturiug towns, and at times defeating the emperor's troops. In the spring of 1849, several troops of militia were put into training to defeud Canton from the iusurgents, and the people were called upon to find funds for maintaining them. In April of that year, a large body of rebels was defeated, and 552 made prisoners. Before the close of the year, several hundred more of the insurgents were taken; but the iusurrection was not suppressed: it gained strength; and there were those who at that time proclaimed, that it was a wide-spread and well-organised scheme to overthrow the Mantchoo dynasty, and to procure the restoration of the Ming, or Chinese race.

There is reason to believe that these insurrections have been fomented by secret societies; the chief of which, the "Triad Society, or Heaven, Earth, and Man," is known to have been in existence from the close of the 17th century. Some of the papers of this society, translated by Dr. Gutzlaff, evidently inculcate the overthrow of the Mantchoos, and the restoration of the old race. Dispersed in various parts of the empire, they maintain a secret organisation; and, like the Freemasons of Europe, have certain sigus and pass-words, known only to themselves. Other societies are—"the Flood Family," "the Queen of Heaven's Company," "the Sleeping Dragon Society," and "the Pure Tea Sect." Various disorders have been traced to these societies; and a proclamation, in 1831, offering a free pardon to all who would leave them, had very little effect. Few came in; and whilst there was no sigu of the breaking-up of any one of these institutions, the insurrections in different parts of the empire appeared to be concentrating, and gathering strength from union, till at last the iusurgents openly put forward a pretender to the throne.

Whilst these domestic dissensions were at their height, the emperor, Taoeu-kwang, died. The new monarch assumed the name of Hien-foung, or "Complete Abundance." He was only nineteen years of age, and for some time surrounded by flatterers, eunuchs, and concubines. He remained in seclusion in his immense palace—itself a town. The insurrection which disturbed the last years of his father, still raged; and it began to assume especial importance in the province of Kwang-see, situated at the south-western part of the empire, uuder the rule of a governor-general, and forming part of the viceroyalty of the two Kwangs. In the most distant mountains of this province, dwell the Miao-tszes—that native race which, as we have already stated, has constantly maintained its independence; and with them the insurgents entered into au alliance. At the head of this insurrection were skilful officers, who defeated the imperial troops wherever they were encountered, and took several large towns. Siu, the viceroy of the two Kwangs, addressed a proclamation to the rebels, calliug upon them to submit. Their chiefs replied by a manifesto, asserting, that the Mantchoos, who for two centuries had been in possession of the throne of China, were descended from an insignificant nation of followers; they had succeeded, by meaus of a veteran army well inured to warfare, in acquiring plunder and power, and had thus shown, "that the only thing requisite for usurping empire was the fact of being the strongest." They contended, that they (the rebels) had as much right to power, and to collect taxes, as the Mantchoos; and asked, "why troops were sent against them? Such a proceeding struck them as being very unjust."

In March, 1851, the rebels followed up the principles proclaimed in their manifesto, by putting forth a pretender to the crown—a young man called Tien-te ("Celestial Virtue"), a year younger than the emperor. He claimed to be a descendant of the Chinese race of Ming; and his followers invested him with the imperial yellow robe. They also had his portrait taken, aud circulated by thousands through the country. His first act, on assuming the dignity of the "Son of Heaven," was to offer a reward of 10,000 dollars for the head of the governor of the two Kwangs. This so irritated Siu, then on his way to join the army in Kwang-see with additional troops, that he offered a sum equal to 30,000 dollars for the heads of Tien-te, his father, and a mysterious being who always attended the former, and appeared to be his especial councillor and friend. The additional troops brought no additional success to the imperialists. The rebels were successful in all encounters;

and as they warred only with the Tartar soldiers, respecting the persons and property of the Chinese inhabitants, whilst the imperialists were indiscriminate both in slaughtering and plundering, the population in general sided with Tien-te. His career, however, was a short one. In September, 1852, he took up his quarters, with his court and body-guard, in the town of Hing-gan, in the northern part of Kwang-see. Within a few leagues his old enemy Siu was located; and he had recently put forth another proclamation, offering £10,000 for the head of Tien-te. Soon after the latter established himself at Hing-gan, a Tartar chief was captured, and taken to Peking, where he was exhibited in an iron cage, and ultimately put to death. Before his execution he made a confession, which, if true, shows that he was Tien-te; though the rebels say that he was only a petty chief; Tien-te being alive and active in the mountains of Kwang-see, from whence he exercised a secret but decided influence, and observed the progress of the revolt. However, from that time his place appears to have been taken by another rebel, called Tai-ping ("Grand Pacificator"), who then appeared on the field as the chief of the revolt. According to the confession alluded to, the real name of this man was Houng-seu-tsieuen. He had been connected with the rebels from the first; had induced a number of graduates and students of Canton (of whom Tien-te was one) to join them, and had given them the name of the "Society of the Shange-te" (that is, "of the Great God"). He inscribed on his banners, the motto, "We are doing justice in the name of Heaven;" and professed, as did his followers, a theology, which has led some persons to consider them to be Christians.

The year 1852 closed most disastrously for the emperor's cause. Having failed to subdue the rebels, Siu, in January, 1853, fell into disgrace; was deprived of his viceroyalty; and committed suicide. In March, the rebels took Nanking. Early in the morning of the 19th, having sprung a mine, which made a considerable breach, they carried the city by assault, cruelly massacring all the Tartar inhabitants. They have since made it their head-quarters, from whence orders have been sent, and armies dispatched, to other parts; although, for a long time, a large Tartar army was encamped on the east, south, and west sides of the town; whilst flotillas were anchored on the river both above and below it, in order to prevent their leaving. In the beginning of April, the followers of Tai-ping took Kwa-chow and Yang-chow, two walled cities, nearly opposite to Ching-kiang-foo, upon the northern bank of the Yang-tze-kiang. Ching-kiang-foo was also occupied without resistance. The possession of Nanking gave them the complete command of the grand canal, and enabled them to intercept the communication between the north and the south. They gave Nanking the name of Tien-king, or "the Heavenly Capital;" and there they established a regular government, and placed garrisons in Yang-chow and Ching-kiang-foo.

Soon after the insurgents had established themselves at Nanking, they were visited by Sir George Bonham, sent out to China by the British government, and Mr. Meadows, the interpreter, to assure them that their government meant to observe a strict neutrality. This step was necessary, in consequence of a proclamation having been circulated by the Tartar government of the province, stating that the British had offered to supply the emperor with war-steamers, and meant to do all they could to exterminate the insurgents. From Mr. Meadows' despatches we learn, that Tai-ping had a regular army of from 30,000 to 40,000 men. They all wore long hair, their heads being unshaven, and their tails cut off. Instead of the usual chang, or Chinese robe, buttoned at the side, they wore tunics, open in front. In addition to this force, there were volunteers and pressed men, said to number from 80,000 to 100,000. These armies and the government were supported by taxes levied on the Chinese inhabitants of the towns and districts occupied. The Tartar inhabitants were generally massacred—men, women, and children—and their property seized; cruelties that ill-accorded with the precepts of humanity and mercy incorporated in the books circulated by the adherents of Tai-ping.

Amoy became the next object of the insurgents, as they were called by the government; the "patriots," as they called themselves. At that city, it is thought, the inhabitants were prepared for their reception, many of them having been enrolled in a society, which, under the name of "The Short Knife," had been organised there against the Tartar dynasty. On the 14th of May, a body, about 3,500 strong, invested Hai-teng—a walled town on the river Chang-chow, and beheaded the chief mandarin. On the 17th, it was reported at Amoy that this force was approaching that city; and, at about half-past four A.M., of the 18th, boats, of all descriptions and sizes, bearing red flags, and full of armed men, were seen approaching. The wharf-coolies, boatmen, policemen, and labourers, immediately began plundering the public offices; and very little resistance was made to the enemy when they landed by the garrison, who eventually opened the gates. An admiral was in the roadstead, with several junks: he retreated out to sea. The rebels conducted themselves with great moderation at Amoy; they did no injury to private property; and several of the rabble caught, when committing depredatious, were beheaded. An attempt of the imperialists to retake Amoy was defeated; and two mandarins were captured, whose heads were struck off and placed on the walls. In September, Shanghai was taken; and, in 1854, from August to November, the rebels besieged Canton, but were compelled to raise the siege.

And now the *prestige* of the rebels appeared to forsake them. Two armies had advanced northwards, one of which reached Tien-sin; but in the north they found few sympathisers, chiefly, according to report, from their renouncing opium and tobacco; and they are said to have "melted away, without any notable battle or celebrated defeat." In June, 1855, the imperialists reoccupied Shanghai, Amoy, and several other important places; and, in September, the *Peking Gazette* announced, that the empire, north of the Yellow River, was clear of rebels. Still they held Nanking, and from thence made constant raids eastward, westward, and southward, without effecting any decided success. Probably this may have been owing to dissensions amongst themselves. An eastern and a northern wang or king, who had joined them, and had been in the confidence of Tai-ping, were, in 1856, accused of treachery and conspiracy. Many of their followers were also taken, charged with the same crimes; and as they had made the famed porcelain pagoda their rendezvous, that beautiful pile was blown up with gunpowder, and many of the conspirators with it. These events led to the concentration of the insurgent force; and, in 1857, they occupied "a small section of the valley of the Yang-tze-kiang, running, perhaps, 350 miles

along its southern bank, from Ching-kiang-foo to Kew-kiang, on the northern margin of the Poyang lake in Kiang-see." * This was their position during the late war, and up to the present time.

The relations between the English and the Chinese, subsequent to the attack on the Bogue Forts in 1847, and during the progress of the Tai-ping rebels, had been pacific, though the authorities at Canton hesitated to carry out the supplementary treaty of Nanking, by giving the Europeans free admission to that city, on the ground, that it would occasion constant quarrels between the Chinese and the sailors. There seemed to be so much doubt as to the value and the importance of the concession, that, after Sir George Bonham had been a short time in China, he consented that the article of the treaty by which this free admission was guaranteed, should not be enforced; but the *right* of the English to enforce it was by no means abandoned. Things went on, after this, pretty harmoniously, as far as the intercourse of the English with the Chinese authorities was concerned; but the ships and boats of the former were sometimes engaged with the numerous Chinese pirates; and several gallant actions with the junks of those marine marauders took place. The result was, greatly to check piracy in the Chinese waters, though it was not entirely extinguished.

SECTION II.

THE QUARREL WITH YEH; AND THE WAR OF 1856—'58.

Subsequent to the treaty of 1842, and under its provisions, it had been the custom, when a Chinese vessel came into the possession of a British owner, to issue a certificate of register, authorising it to bear the British flag, and, as a British vessel, to navigate those rivers, and trade with those ports, which were, under that treaty, opened to foreigners. In the month of September, 1855, a vessel of the class called *lorchas*, and named the *Arrow*, received a certificate that she was registered, for twelve months, as a British vessel, in which character she traded between Hong-Kong and Canton. In October, 1856, she was lying in the Pearl River; and a trader, whose vessel had been destroyed by pirates, gave information that some of the marauders were amongst her crew. In consequence, the mandarin Yeh, viceroy of the province of Kwang-tung, and the emperor's commissioner at Canton, gave orders for their arrest. On the 8th of October a party of Chinese soldiers boarded the *Arrow*, from whose mast-head, it is asserted, the British flag was flying, and an Englishman was on board, acting as master. Having first pulled down the flag, the Chinese arrested the crew, twelve in number. Only two of them were positively charged as pirates; a third was, apparently, wanted as a witness; and there does not appear to have been any pretext for seizing the other nine. This act was considered by Mr. Parkes, the British consul at Canton, to be a violation of the treaty of October, 1843, supplementary to that of 1842, which provides that, previous to the arrest of any persons charged with offences, who may be on board British vessels, the Chinese officials should communicate with the British consul, who would give the necessary authority for their being taken into custody. Upon the question of the nationality of the *Arrow* all the subsequent proceedings were based. As the certificate granted to that vessel had expired on the 27th of September, it would appear, to unbiassed observers, that she was restored to her old nationality; and that there was, strictly speaking, no violation of the treaty by the Chinese. But the British authorities contended, that Yeh did not know that the term of registry had expired; that he had acted in contempt of the regulations which the treaty imposed; and that he had insulted the British flag, for which an apology must be made. Writing to Mr. Parkes, the British consul at Canton, Sir John Bowring, the British plenipotentiary at Hong-Kong, indeed distinctly admitted that "the *Arrow* had no right to hoist the British flag;" but, in reply to Commissioner Yeh, who maintained that the lorcha "assumed that flag without being entitled to it," or "fraudulently," as he subsequently expressed himself—the plenipotentiary declared, that "there was no doubt the lorcha *Arrow* lawfully bore the British flag, under a register granted by him." She was bound to Hong-Kong at the time the men were arrested; there the certificate would have been renewed; and it is maintained, that, although under our municipal regulations, "as *between ourselves and the vessel*, she had lost, by a very few days, her claim to insist upon our protection," yet, "as *between ourselves and the Chinese*, this technical flaw in the register made no difference whatever; and that the *Arrow*, by treaty and international law, as distinguished from municipal law, remained a British vessel to all intents and purposes, according to the broad meaning of the treaty with China, which was all Sir John Bowring had to consider."† This explanation may satisfy the mere jurist; but we do not think the future historian, who judges of right and wrong upon the basis of moral principle, will be disposed to justify the preliminary steps of the British authorities in China, however he may think that the subsequent conduct of the Chinese rendered it impossible for the home government to recede from the quarrel into which we had been heedlessly plunged.

As soon as Mr. Consul Parkes heard of the capture of the men, he proceeded to the war-boat on board of which the prisoners had been taken, where he found an officer in charge, named Le-yung-shin, to whom he explained the gravity of the error which had been committed, in boarding and carrying off by force of arms the crew of an English vessel, and the gross indignity offered to the national flag by hauling down the lorcha's ensign. The Chinese officer was required to send the prisoners to the British consulate, there to await examination; but Le-yung-shin refused to give up the men; and on Mr. Parkes insisting on their being

* The Rev. W. C. Milne.

† See Mr. E. A. Bowring's Letter to the *Times*, of March 13th, 1857.

delivered, he threatened to repel, by force, any attempt made to take them out of the war-boat. Mr. Parkes had no means of resisting force; he therefore returned to the consulate, and wrote to Commissioner Yeh, informing him of the facts, and stating, that the insult offered to the British flag was one of a "very grave character, which required immediate reparation." He required that the men who had been carried away from the *Arrow* should be returned to that vessel, in his presence, by the officer who took them; and, if accused of any crime, that they should be taken to the British consulate, where he would be prepared, with proper officers nominated by Yeh, to investigate the case. The consul also put in a claim for any expenses the lorcha might be put to, from the detention rendered unavoidable by the seizure of her crew. The same day, the consul sent a despatch to Sir John Bowring, informing him of the circumstances: and he also wrote to Commodore the Hon. Charles Elliot, commanding her majesty's ship *Sybille*, requesting that he would proceed to Whampoa, as the presence of that vessel there might have the effect of materially strengthening his position.

Yeh did not reply to the consul's letter till the 10th of October. The purport of his answer was, that the men had been arrested because the commissioner had been informed that they were the perpetrators of an act of piracy committed at San-chow-tang, in St. John's island, on the 6th of September, on a merchant vessel belonging to Hwang-leen-kae. The deposition of that person was inclosed, to the effect, that he "was certain" that Le-mingtae, one of the men taken into custody, "was one of the pirates" who attacked his vessel. Another deposition, made by Woo-ajin, a Chinese who had been on board the *Arrow*, also accompanied the despatch, setting forth, that the vessel belonged to one Loo-Aching, who built it, and obtained a registry for it through a foreign firm [Mr. Block, the Danish consul], for which he paid 1,000 dollars. He also deposed, that Le-mingtae told him, that he and Leang-keen-foo, another sailor, were engaged in plundering junks off San-chow-tang, on the 4th of September. On these depositions, Yeh maintained, that "there were good reasons for seizing the men;" and that "Woo-ajin, Le-mingtae, and Leang-keen-foo must be again very strictly examined." The other nine men he ordered to be returned to the vessel; but he contended, that the facts spoken to by Woo-ajin, showed that "the lorcha was not a foreign vessel, and that it was useless to enter into any discussion respecting her." This communication was forwarded to Sir John Bowring, who, in his reply, dated October 11th, says—

"The question presents two important inquiries: first, the rights of the vessel in question; and second, the conduct of the Chinese authorities. It appears, on examination, that the *Arrow* had no right to hoist the British flag; the license to do so expired on the 27th of September, from which period she has not been entitled to protection. You will send back the register, to be delivered to the colonial office. But the Chinese had no knowledge of the expiry of the license; nor do they profess that they had any other grounds for interference than the supposition that the owner is not a British subject; that, however, is a question for this government, who granted the register; and it is clear that the Chinese have violated the 9th article of the supplementary treaty, which requires that all Chinese malfaisants in British ships shall be claimed through British authorities. You will inform the imperial commissioner, that I require an apology for what has taken place, and an assurance that the British flag shall in future be respected; that forty-eight hours are allowed for this communication, which being passed, you are instructed to call on the naval authorities to assist you in enforcing redress. You will add, that on any sufficient evidence being given that British ships or British subjects have been engaged in piratical practices, they will be proceeded against without hesitation; and that, on application to the proper authority, Chinese offenders will not be harboured on board British vessels; but that all proceedings must take place according to the conditions of the treaty. If these representations fail, the senior naval officer will be authorised to seize and keep in his possession one of the imperial junks, which he will hold until redress be obtained, or further instructions be received from his excellency the naval commander-in-chief."

Mr. Parkes received this despatch on the 12th of October. He communicated its contents to Yeh; who, in his reply, on the 15th, adhered to his former statements; adding, that when the Chinese soldiers went on board the lorcha, they saw no foreigners on board, and that no flag was hoisted. Our consul, however, responded, that he "had the most clear and conclusive proofs" of the facts denied by the commissioner. Whilst this correspondence was going on, Sir J. Bowring communicated with Sir Michael Seymour, the rear-admiral in command in the Chinese waters, who directed Commodore Elliot to carry out the plenipotentiary's suggestion of seizing a junk. That officer, in consequence, took possession of one on the 14th of October, on the supposition that it belonged to the government. It, however, proved to be private property, and was subsequently given up. After this seizure, several more letters passed between Mr. Parkes and Yeh; but the latter continued persistent in contending that the *Arrow* was not a foreign vessel, therefore the British had nothing to complain of. No apology for the occurrences of the 8th was made, or hinted at; and as the seizure of the junk on the 14th produced no change in the commissioner's demeanour, Mr. Parkes proceeded to Hong-Kong, to consult with Sir John Bowring and Rear-admiral Seymour, as to the best measures of compulsion to be adopted. They all considered, that the seizure of the defences of Canton would be the most judicious step, both as a display of power without the sacrifice of life, and as a proof of their determination to obtain redress—"experience of the Chinese character having proved, that moderation is considered, by the officials, only as an evidence of weakness."* On Mr. Parkes' return to Canton, on the 21st of October, he therefore, sent a despatch to Yeh, allowing him twenty-four hours to comply with the demands made in his previous letters. On the 22nd, the commissioner offered to give up ten of the men; but twelve being seized, the consul refused to receive a less number. The twelve were then sent, with a demand that two of them should be returned; but as they were sent privately to the consulate, and not publicly to the vessel, as required, Mr. Parkes declined to receive them.

When the twenty-four hours' grace given to Yeh were expired, and "no sign" of a compliance with the demands of Sir John Bowring had been made, the rear-admiral began to take active steps for carrying out the resolution to which the three officials had come—to take possession of Canton.† Having moved the *Calcutta* as

* Sir M. Seymour's despatch, Nov. 14th.

† The vessels in the Canton waters at this time were—the *Calcutta*, flag-ship, 80; *Sybille*, 44; *Nanking* and *Winchester*, 50; **Hornet*, 17; *Comus* and **Niger*, 14; *Bittern*, 12; **Encounter*, **Barracouta*, and **Sampson*, 6; and **Coromandel*, of 3 guns. Those with the * were steamers.

high above the Bogue Forts as her draft of water permitted, on the morning of the 23rd of October, Sir Michael and Commodore Elliot proceeded, on board the *Coromandel*, to Canton, with the *Sampson* and *Barracouta* in company; they had with them detachments of royal marines and boats' crews of the *Winchester* and *Bittern*, and the boats of the *Sybille*. As the little squadron approached Blenheim Reach, the *Sampson* and a portion of the force were detached, and sent up the Macao Passage, to the west, to capture the Blenheim Fort, and prevent the Chinese from stopping up the channel. The rear-admiral proceeded, with the *Coromandel* and *Barracouta*, to the Four Barrier Forts, five miles below Canton. The steamers were anchored above the forts; and parties sent on shore by the boats took possession of them, and about 150 guns. The British sustained no loss, though they were fired upon by the Chinese. The return fire killed five of the enemy. As soon as these forts were taken, Commander Fortescue, in the *Barracouta*, was sent to follow the *Sampson;* and the guns in the Barrier Forts having been spiked, the ammunition destroyed, and the buildings in the forts burned, the rear-admiral proceeded to Canton. On arriving, he learnt that parties from the *Sampson* and *Barracouta* had taken Blenheim, and also Macao Fort; the latter a very strong position on an island in the middle of the river, and mounting eighty-six guns. Sir M. Seymour put a garrison into this fort, with the intention of retaining it, with a view to future operations.

In the evening of the 23rd, Mr. Parkes again wrote to Commissioner Yeh, informing him of the proceedings of the squadron, and stating, that the commander-in-chief would proceed to the destruction of all the defences and public buildings of Canton, unless the demands already made were complied with; and that, if the "movements should occasion, or lead to, the destruction of any British property, the British government would demand from that of China full compensation for the same." Yeh, in his reply of the 24th, adhered to his former position, that the *Arrow* was not a British vessel; said he had returned the twelve men seized on the morning of the 22nd; that it was owing to his being at peace with the consul's "honourable nation, that the soldiers, in no instance, offered resistance" to the British on the previous day; but if violence were again resorted to, "occasioning trouble among the people of the city," who would "not submit to such proceedings," he should "find it difficult to employ persuasion on their account."—The result of Yeh's firmness—or obstinacy, as most people thought it—was, that, on the 24th, a body of marines was landed, to aid detachments from the crews of the *Sybille* and *Encounter* (already at Canton) to protect the factories; and the rear-admiral proceeded, in the *Coromandel*, to join the *Barracouta*, off the Macao Fort. Then, at a preconcerted signal, the Bird's-nest Fort, mounting forty-five guns, and a small fort opposite the city, which might have annoyed the factory, were taken without opposition; as were, on the same day, the Shamin Forts, at the head of the Macao Passage. The guns in these forts were rendered unserviceable, and the ammunition destroyed. Measures were then taken, under the superintendence of Sir M. Seymour's flag-captain, W. K. Hall, and Captain Cowper, R.E., to protect the factories. The remainder of the royal marines on board the ships were landed, under Captain P. C. Penrose, with a detachment of small-arm men; advanced posts and field-pieces were stationed at all the assailable points, barricades were thrown across the streets, and the boats kept vigilant watch to guard against the approach of fire-rafts and attacks by water. The United States' corvette *Portsmouth*, under Commander Foote, was in the river; and a body of officers, seamen, and marines, was landed from that vessel, to provide for the interests of the Americans at Canton.

Operations were continued on the 25th; when the Dutch Folly, in which were fifty guns, was taken, and a garrison of 140 men, under Commander Rolland, of the *Calcutta*, placed there. An attempt was made, in the afternoon, to drive away the British from the neighbourhood of Canton. They were attacked by a body of Chinese soldiers, supported by a larger party, which occupied the streets to their rear. The guard of royal marines, under Captain Penrose, quickly forced them back—their loss, as was understood, being fourteen men killed. The fighting did not prevent the rear-admiral from again attempting to bring about an accommodation. As all the defences of the city were in the hands of the British, he made another appeal to Yeh on the 25th, but ineffectually, as the commissioner maintained, that, in returning the twelve men to the consul on the morning of the 22nd, he had complied with the demands made in Mr. Parkes' letters of the 8th and 12th. On receiving this reply from Yeh, the treasure was removed from the factories to Hong-Kong, where the European and American ladies residing in the suburbs of Canton repaired.

The next day (the 26th) being Sunday, the din of arms ceased; and on the 27th, Mr. Parkes was instructed once more to write to the commissioner, stating, that as satisfaction had not been offered for the affair of the *Arrow*, offensive operations would be resumed; and he was also instructed to add to his former demands another —that the foreign representatives should have the same free access to the authorities and city of Canton (where all the Chinese high officials reside), as is enjoyed, under treaty, at the other four ports, and denied at Canton alone. To this letter Yeh, at the time, sent no reply; but, on the day he received it, he issued a proclamation, under his own official seal, offering a reward of thirty dollars for every Englishman's head that might be brought in to him. This reward was subsequently increased to a hundred dollars.

Not hearing from the commissioner, Sir M. Seymour continued his operations against Canton. The inhabitants had been previously warned to withdraw their property, which they did; and, at 1 P.M. on the 27th, a discharge of shot and shell was opened, from the *Encounter*, upon the fortified residence of Yeh: the *Barracouta*, at the same time, having taken up a position at the head of the Sulphur Creek, to the west of the city, shelled the troops behind Gough's Fort, upon the White Cloud Hills. The next day, and on the 29th, the bombardment was continued, two of the *Encounter's* 32-pounders being placed in the Dutch Folly, and joining in the *mêlée*. On the former day, the governor's house took fire, and the conflagration spread to a number of houses on both sides. On the 29th, it was ascertained that a practicable breach was made in the walls; and a small force was told-off, of about 400 seamen, marines, and artillerymen, to make an assault. The seamen were

led by Captain the Hon. Keith Stewart, and Commanders Bate and Rolland; the marines by Captains P. C. Penrose and R. Boyle. Commander Bate led the way, and was the first seen on the top of tho breach, waving the British ensign. Here he was joined by the seamen and mariues, who, diverging to the right and left, dispersed the Chinese troops, and took possession of the defences between two of the gates, with the guns in the breach. In the meantime, Captain Penrose had advanced to a gate ou the right, where he was joined by Captain Hall, and the boats' crews of the *Calcutta* and *Barracouta*. They were assisted by Captain Fortescue, Lieutenant G. C. Fowler (the flag-lieutenant of the rear-admiral), and Captain Rotton, R.A.; and the gate was soon blown to pieces. There were ample means of defence, and the guns on the parapet were found loaded. The Chinese, however, fled as the British approached; but they kept up a scattered and desultory fire, by which three of the assailants were killed, and eleven wounded. When the fighting ceased, the commander-in-chief entered the city, and visited and inspected the house of the high commissioner. The force "re-embarked at sunset," writes Sir M. Seymour to the secretary of the admiralty, "and the officers and men were returned to their respective quarters; my object, which was to show his excellency that I had the power to enter the city, having been fully accomplished." The British had strictly observed the rear-admiral's orders—not to injure the people of Canton, or their property; but another fire broke out in the night of the 29th, which consumed a large number of houses, and the inhabitants must have suffered great loss.

During the night, the Chinese filled up the breach with sand-bags and timber; but a few shots in the morning soon cleared it again. This effected, the rear-admiral personally addressed Commissioner Yeh, in the hope of inducing him to accede to the demands made by Mr. Consul Parkes. In his reply, Yeh still maintained his old ground. No breach of the treaty had, he said, been committed; and he had returned the twelve men. As to the new demand, for the admission of officials to Canton, he referred to the decision of Plenipotentiary Bonham, who, he said, "in April, 1849, issued a public notice at the factories, to the effect, that he thereby prohibited foreigners from entering the city;" and said, "he could suggest nothing better than a continued adherence to that policy." The admiral replied, and Yeh responded; but no effect was produced; and, in consequence, the steps already taken were followed up by pulling down a number of houses, which, if set fire to by the Chinese, as it was expected would be the case, would have endangered the factories; in bombarding the government buildings in the Tartar city, and Gough Fort, to the north-east; in destroying, on the 6th of November, a fleet of war-junks, forty-three in number, collected below the Dutch Folly, for the purpose of attacking the British ships and the factory; and by taking the two Bogue Forts on Wantung island on the 12th, and the two on Annunghoy island, on the 13th, of November. In the two forts 410 guns were found. Considerable resistance was offered at the Wantung forts—the Chinese standiug to their guns till the British began to climb the embrasures, when they took to their heels, and many jumped into the sea. At Annunghoy, the resistance was feeble. Pending these events the Chinese were not altogether idle. They made a bold attempt to destroy the British ships by fire-rafts on tho morning of the 8th; and sent down two fire-boats for the same purpose on the 13th. No damage was effected on either occasion. The fire-rafts were destroyed by the seamen of the *Barracouta;* and the fire-boats exploded without injuring our vessels.

During all these operations—in which Rear-admiral Seymour received the cordial support of the British and foreign communities—the Chinese boats continued to furnish supplies to our ships; and as that gallant officer considered it of importance to iuform the public of the nature of the grievances complained of—particularly as various placards had been issued by the government with a view to excite enmity against the British—he had copies of his letters to the high commissioner printed, and Captain Hall distributed them from his boat: they were eagerly received. Mr. Parkes also promulgated a *précis* of the whole affair in Chiuese. On the other hand, a placard was distributed, headed, "Remonstrauce of the Chinese Gentry," in which Yeh's version of the quarrel was repeated, and the occurrences which had followed were termed a "perverse and unreasonable infringement of this treaty by the English officers." Between the 8th and 12th of November, however, Mr. Parkes received three deputations from the principal merchants and gentry of Cauton, who seemed anxious to bring about a settlement of affairs. They acknowledged that the demands made by the British authorities were not unreasonable; but, they said, "such was the inflexibility of the high commissioner's character, that they feared it would be useless to attempt to alter his expressed determination, not to admit our representatives into his city." They loudly expressed their disapprobation of the commissioner's offer of a reward for the heads of Englishmen; but appeared powerless to effect any settlement of the dispute in favour of England, however much they might wish it. Their mission, therefore, led to nothing; and as the capture of the Bogue Forts placed the command of the river entirely in the hands of the British, the rear-admiral determiued to undertake no further operations beyond the security and maintenance of his positions, leaving it to her majesty's government to determine whether the opportunity should be made available to enforce, to their full extent, the treaty stipulations which the Canton government had, up to that time, been allowed to evade with impunity. The operations by which that position had been attained were laborious; and the rear-admiral expressed, in his report to the secretary of the admiralty, his "entire approval of the conduct of the officers and men engaged in them." When those operations closed, the health of the men was remarkably good, and the squadron continued in an efficient state for any further service. The total loss of the British, up to the 13th of November, had been only four killed and twenty wounded.

Not satisfied with having England for an enemy, the Chinese authorities, soon after the British operations against Canton and the forts had ceased, offered an insult to the flag of the United States. On the 15th of November, Captain Foote, of the United States' ship *Portsmouth*, left Whampoa, in the ship's pinnace, for the purpose of proceeding to Canton, to withdraw the seamen and marines who had been sent on shore to aid in protecting the factories. The English, though they destroyed the buildings in the Barrier Forts, and spiked the guns, had left the forts themselves standing; and as soon as Rear-admiral Seymour had proceeded down the river,

they were remanned, and fresh guns were placed in position. When the pinnace of the *Portsmouth* was passing the forts, it was fired upon, notwithstanding the ensign of the "stripes and stars" was flying at the stern, and compelled to return to Whampoa. Captain Foote reported the circumstance to Commodore Armstrong, who, in the *Levant*, commanded the vessels of the States in the Pearl River. That officer resolving to bombard the forts, the *Levant* and *Portsmouth* immediately moved up the river, and opened a fire upon them. The Chinese returned the fire, and appear to have stood to their guns very firmly, killing two men on board the United States' vessels, wounding others, and injuring the vessels themselves. Commodore Armstrong then wrote to Yeh, demanding an apology within twenty-four hours. An unsatisfactory answer being returned, the fire was reopened on the 17th, and, ultimately, the forts were taken and destroyed—the latter occupation employing the marines till the 6th of December. Yeh then sent a letter to the American commodore, telling him, that firing on his flag was "a mistake!" and, for the present, hostilities ceased between the Celestials and the Americans.

While this little *fracas* was going on, the *Calcutta* and the *Nanking* were engaged in blowing up the forts on Wantung and the Anunghoy islands. The *Hornet*, having been fired upon from the fort at Ty-cock-tow, that post was taken possession of, on the 16th of November, by Captain Stewart, and destroyed. Nothing further occurred till the 26th of November. On that day, reports having reached the commodore that the Chinese were busily employed in rearming the Blenheim Fort, he sent the *Barracouta*, and a party of royal artillery, under Captains Fortescue and Twiss, down the Macao Passage, to check the proceedings, and destroy the fort. The British found it occupied by about 150 soldiers, and fifteen guns were mounted. The troops were driven out, the guns rendered useless, and the works blown up. As the Chinese authorities had also strengthened and rearmed the French Folly fort, Rear-admiral Seymour—in pursuance of a resolution adopted, not to suffer the enemy to re-establish themselves at any of the defences in the neighbourhood of Canton—took up a position off that fort on the 4th of December, in the *Encounter*, which was accompanied by the *Barracouta* and the boats of the squadron—the latter having on board 350 small-arm men and royal mariues, under the command of Captains Wilson and the Hon. A. A. Cochrane, of the *Winchester* and *Niger;* and Captains Penrose and Boyle, of the marines. The ships, anchoring about 850 yards from the fort, opened a heavy fire upon it; the marines being landed, they at once rushed forward and planted the British flag on the ramparts, the garrison retiring at a quick pace. Contrary to the usual custom, however, the Chinese attempted twice to rally, but were driven back, and the Folly was in the possession of the British within one hour after the first gun was fired. Twenty guns were found in the fort; and on the walls were exhibited placards, offering rewards for the heads of the English, and of any Chinese in their employ. The guns were spiked, and the fort mined and blown up. In this affair, the ships were hulled several times; but only one royal marine was killed, and one seaman wounded. Whilst it was going on, as troops were observed collecting in Canton, Commodore Elliot threw several shells into the city from the Dutch Folly, and two magazines exploded. The next day, a seaman and a marine, who had strayed from their post at the Macao Fort, to the island of Houau, were murdered by the inhabitants of the village of Nau-pieu. The rear-admiral sent a party of men to burn the village, and caused a proclamation, in the Chinese language, to be generally circulated, announcing his determination, "in every case, to hold that village or place responsible in which the life of an Englishman should be sacrificed."

Numerous complaints being made of piracies committed in the neighbourhood of Houg-Kong, the *Sampson* (Captain G. H. Hand) was dispatched to check them, on the 5th of December. He captured one large junk, and destroyed five others. The boats had the rebel flag flying; but satisfactory evidence of their being pirates was obtained. On the 12th, an attempt to murder a seaman on board one of the river steamers, caused the destruction of the government buildings and the custom-house, on the spot where it was made; and these retaliatory acts on the part of the British, perhaps led to an attack upon the factories, which was made on the 14th of December—the Chinese having, by that time, collected from 17,000 to 20,000 troops at Canton. About 11 P.M., they set fire to some houses near the factories, which had not been pulled down; and the fire communicating to the foreign buildings, into which rockets and lighted combustibles were also thrown, all those establishments, with the exception of the English factory, were burnt to the ground, notwithstanding the seamen and marines exerted themselves actively and zealously to extinguish the flames. The destruction of the factories caused the removal of all foreign residents to Macao and Hong-Kong, and trade was entirely suspended. The Chinese quitted the factory that was left standing; and it appears that much valuable property was destroyed in the conflagration, which extended to several Chinese houses. Two companies of her majesty's 59th regiment afterwards strongly intrenched themselves in the Respondentia garden; the club-house and church, being detached from the factories, remaining in fact, and affording excellent quarters for the troops. The fleet continued to hold the river; and Rear-admiral Seymour transferred his flag to the steamer *Niger*, and anchored off the garden.

Whilst the English remained in this position, the Chinese again made several attempts to injure or destroy our vessels by fire-rafts, which, owing to the caution observed on board, did not succeed. On the 22nd of December, a large fleet of mandarin junks came out of a shallow creek below Canton, and surrounded a postal steamer and a lorcha she was towing, full of goods saved from the factories. The steamer escaped; but the lorcha was captured, and proved a rich prize. The Chinese closed the year very discreditably. On the 30th of December, some government emissaries, who had been taken on board the *Thistle* postal steamer, as passengers to Hong-Kong, murdered the captain and all on board, except two or three Chinese, and set fire to the vessel. The hull was afterwards taken possession of by the *Barracouta*, and the murdered bodies found on board.

At Hong-Kong, the year closed without the disturbances which were at one time anticipated taking place. The police force had been strengthened at that island, and a picket of the 59th regiment was stationed every night in the Chinese quarter. All the Chinese were required to carry a lantern after dark; and between 10 P.M.

and daylight, no natives were allowed to be at large without a pass. "To the respectable portion," wrote an officer, "this is no hardship, and they are quite alive to the benefit they derive from protective measures." The districts to the north and west of Canton were in a terrible state. Yeh having concentrated the troops at Canton, left the country exposed, and it was overrun by thousands of robbers, who are reported to have burned fifty towns and villages, and turned 50,000 people out of house and home.

Whilst these events were taking place, a correspondence was going on between the British and Chinese officials. After the failure of the negotiations with Yeh to produce any result, Sir J. Bowring, on the 9th of December, addressed himself to the viceroy of Fuh-keen, informing him of what had taken place, and requesting that the court of Peking might be advised of the difference with Yeh on account of the lorcha, and its result. The viceroy "having had, from first to last, no official communication from his excellency Yeh," and "being without the means of informing himself on the subject," replied, that "he could not be so precipitate as to address the throne on the matter." He added—"I rejoice in your excellency's professions of peace; but it would only do harm to the interests of peace, to which you profess yourself so friendly, were I to tell the emperor that, because of Yeh's act, you have precipitately broken the peace which the treaty said was to last for ever. Another reason against my addressing the throne is, that Yeh, and he alone, is competent to deal with commercial questions; and this can be nothing else, being a question with foreigners." But though the viceroy of Fuh-keen refused to address the throne on this subject, the emperor obtained information from some other quarter; and on the 27th of December, he issued an edict to the provincial authorities, instructing them as to their conduct with respect to the hostilities with England, caused by "some of the Canton marines having seized some pirates on board a lorcha." In this document, Mr. Parkes was spoken of as "the English barbarian chief;" and the Chinese were told that, in the affairs of the 29th of October and 6th of November, their "troops were victorious in both actions, killing and wounding above 400 of the barbarian villains, and slaying their admiral. Land and marine forces," it was said, "numbering 20,000 and more, had been moved up, and the barbarians, who had been indulging in the greatest arrogance and forwardness, would not, it was presumed, after the check they had received, venture on any further display of lawless violence." It was added, that the Americans, French, and other Western nations, "sensible that the English barbarians were wrong in the quarrel," did "not choose to co-operate with them;" and that, being thus "wholly unsupported, there was a reasonable possibility that suffering would induce repentance, and that they would desist from hostilities." This proclamation shows how the Chinese authorities deceived the people. With respect to the latter part of it, Dr. Parker, the American commissioner, denied that the interpretation put upon his conduct was correct; and intimated his belief, that if there had been a personal interview between the high officers of the two governments, the matter might have been "settled according to reason and justice," and thus "the vast destruction of property and effusion of blood" would have been prevented.

When intelligence of these events reached England, they gave rise to much discussion, and great difference of opinion; but the conduct of her majesty's officials in China met with the unqualified support of the home government. On the 10th of December, 1856, the Earl of Clarendon, after receiving the despatches from Sir J. Bowring, giving an account of the seizure of the crew of the *Arrow*, stated, that he "had consulted the law officers of the crown;" and, after such consultation, his lordship declared his opinion to be, that "the act of the Chinese authorities constituted an infraction of Art. 9 of the supplementary treaty." In a subsequent despatch, dated January 10th, 1857, the noble earl thus expressed himself to Sir J. Bowring:—"I have to acquaint you, that her majesty's government entirely approve the course which has been adopted by Sir Michael Seymour and yourself; and I have to instruct you, also, to convey to Mr. Parkes a similar approval of his conduct."

When the year 1857 opened, the following British ships of war were in the Chinese waters. In the Canton river, the *Acorn* (12), recently arrived; the *Encounter*, *Coromandel*, *Hornet*, *Comus*, *Niger*, *Sybille*, and *Barracouta*. At Hong-Kong, the *Alligator*, *Calcutta*, *Hercules* (hospital-ship), *Minden*, and *Sampson*. At Whampoa, the *Mirage* (tender); at the Bogue, the *Nanking;* at Shanghai, the *Pique* (36); and at Fuh-chan, the *Racehorse* (14). The commander-in-chief did not contemplate any active measures till some smaller vessels arrived, with which the creeks of the Pearl River could be penetrated; but on the 4th of January, the Chinese made a bold attempt to retake the Macao (or Tea-totum) Fort. Early in the morning, about sixty junks came out of the Fatshan Creek, on the west side of the river, and passed the *Hornet* and *Comus*, which were stationed about a mile and a quarter from the fort. Their approach being notified to the rear-admiral, between 1 and 2 A.M. the *Coromandel* and *Encounter* were sent to reconnoitre. The latter vessel, when on her way, saw another fleet of junks approaching from the Starling Creek. She sent a few long shot amongst them, as did the *Niger*, and they dispersed. The *Encounter*, soon after, got aground, and the *Coromandel* not being able to get near the fort, the junks from the Fatshan Creek, which had been joined by others, made their way to within 400 yards of the shore, their gongs beating and colours flying, and opened their fire. It was returned from the Miniés of the small-arm men and marines; and, at the same time, another division of junks came within range of the guns of the *Comus* and *Hornet*, which were opened upon them, the long 68-pounder of the latter doing great execution. The action did not last long. The junks retired, after losing many men—followed by the boats of the two sloops, which drew too much water to enter the creeks. As 180 heavily-armed row-boats covered the retreat of the junks, the pursuit was soon given up, the guns of the English boats being disabled by a perfect storm of grape. The attack is described as "the most plucky one, on the part of the Chinese, ever witnessed by English officers." About 150 junks and 7,000 men are supposed to have taken part in it; and they discharged 20-lb shot, one of which killed Mr. Pearce, master-assistaut of her majesty's ship *Calcutta*. No other Englishman was killed, and only two officers and six seamen were wounded.

As demands were made on the rear-admiral for the protection of Hong-Kong—where the English continued to feel great alarm, lest a Chinese force should make a descent on the island—the troops and marines were withdrawn from the Respondentia garden, the Dutch Folly, and Bird's-nest forts; and those not sent to Hong-Kong were concentrated at Macao Fort. Previous to leaving the immediate neighbourhood of Canton, the western suburbs were entirely destroyed, on the 12th of January, by carcases thrown from the Dutch Folly; assisted by some men of the 59th, and a small body of the crews of the *Barracouta*, *Encounter*, and *Niger*. In this affair, ten privates of the 59th and one officer were seriously wounded, and two privates were killed; the heads of the latter were cut off by the Chinese braves. The same day, the *Sampson*, on her way up the river, was surrounded by junks, which she engaged for an hour or more, beating them off, but not being able to follow them up the creeks, where they took shelter. Some days after, the little *Hornet* had an encounter with two divisions of junks, which she gallantly beat off; an attempt to burn the *Comus*, by fire-rafts, on the night of the 26th of January, was also defeated.

In January, a terrible alarm was excited at Hong-Kong, by a rumour that an attempt had been made to poison the English residents on the island. On the 14th, many of those residents—Sir J. Bowring and his family amongst them—were taken seriously ill after eating bread made by one A-lum, a Chinese baker, who, it was found, had left his home that morning. He was subsequently arrested, tried, and acquitted; as it appeared that he and his family partook of the bread, and were ill in consequence. Nobody at Hong-Kong doubted the fact of the bread being poisoned; and that, out of the 400 or 500 persons who partook of it, none died, is attributed to there having been at least double or treble the quantity of arsenic used which was required to destroy life, in consequence of which, it produced immediate nausea, and did not remain on the stomach. We should rather believe, from what transpired on the trial, that some improper material (not arsenic) had got mixed with the flour, by accident. Believing, however, that an attempt had been made to poison them, the inhabitants, not unnaturally, from what was known of the man, attributed the crime to orders received from Yeh. The commissioner, on his part, indignantly disclaimed all knowledge of it. "To poison people in this underhand manner," he said, "is an act worthy of detestation." But he attributed it to the "numberless evils inflicted upon the Chinese by the English," which had caused "the natives of the surrounding districts to take that way of revenging their private wrongs." The natives of those districts, however, any more than those of Hong-Kong, never expressed any dissatisfaction with the English; on the contrary, they were always eager to live under their protection.

Towards the close of January, a company of the rifles of the 38th regiment, and two companies of the 20th Madras regiment, were sent to Hong-Kong from Singapore, notwithstanding the protest of the Europeans against leaving the latter colony so bare of military protection. They had some reason for their apprehensions; as a conspiracy was detected amongst the Chinese, both at that place and Penang, having for its object to extirpate the British. It is conjectured, that there were secret societies at those colonies, in communication with the Chinese on the continent; and that the organisation included Sir James Brooke's settlement of Sarawak, on the island of Borneo, where an insurrection of the Chinese residents broke out on the 18th of February. In the night, a numerous body of Chinese dropped down the river on which the town of Sarawak is situated, and landed there. They took possession of the stockaded posts, with the treasure, ammunition, opium, &c., they contained, and then attacked the houses occupied by Sir James Brooke, Mr. Cruickshank (a magistrate), and Mr. Middleton, a government official. Their aim appears to have been, to massacre those persons connected with the government, most of whom made their escape. The houses of the three gentlemen named were, however, destroyed, with their entire contents. Sir James Brooke had some difficulty in evading the assailants; but he succeeded in getting across the river. Obtaining assistance from the Dyaks, he returned the next day, and the Chinese were dispossessed of all the places where they had established themselves. Many of them were killed, as they made a stubborn resistance; and the result was, that they were put under complete restraint. The precautions taken at Singapore and Peuang, prevented similar scenes from occurring there, though some riots, caused by the Chinese, took place on the latter island.

In England, parliament assembled in February, and the affairs of China were amongst the first subjects brought before both houses. In the Lords, resolutions were moved by the Earl of Derby, on the 24th, to the effect, that the house had heard, with great regret, of the rupture of amicable relations with China; that the present differences rendered the time "peculiarly unfortunate for pressing upon the Chinese authorities a claim for the admission of British subjects into China, which had been in abeyance since 1849;" that hostile operations ought not to have been undertaken without express authority from home; and that the alleged infraction of the supplementary treaty of October, 1843, and the refusal to admit the English, "afforded no sufficient justification of such operations." There was a spirited debate on these resolutions, which extended over two evenings, the principal speakers in support of them being the noble mover, Lord Lyndhurst, and Earl Grey; the government was defended by the Earls of Clarendon and Granville, and the Duke of Argyll. The resolutions were negatived by seventy-one votes and seventy-five proxies, against fifty-three of the former and fifty-seven of the latter. On the 26th, Mr. Cobden moved a resolution in the Commons, stating, that "the papers which had been laid upon the table of the house, failed to establish satisfactory grounds for the violent measures resorted to at Canton." After three nights' debate, this resolution was carried, on the 3rd of March, by 263 votes to 247.

Lord Palmerston, in consequence of this adverse vote, dissolved parliament; and the decision of the house, though we think in accordance with truth and justice, was not confirmed by the country. Two days after it was come to, the merchants of London, trading with China, came forward to approve of the conduct of the government. They agreed to an address to Lord Palmerston, in which they thanked his lordship for "the

firmness he had displayed in upholding the honour of Great Britain, and his determination to protect the lives and property of British subjects, peaceably engaged in commercial intercourse with China." They apprehended "that still further difficulties and disasters would be created by the late adverse vote in the House of Commons;" and looking "confidently to his lordship to devise measures calculated to protect their friends and fellow-countrymen," and to extricate the English merchants "honourably from the present painful state of things in China," they trusted he "would not be deterred, by what had occurred, from continuing to maintain a firm and dignified attitude, until all treaty obligations were fulfilled, and the commercial relations with China placed on a permanent footing of security and peace." In several other important quarters, similar sentiments were also expressed; many of the large constituencies showing themselves dissatisfied with the conduct of their representatives, who had supported Mr. Cobden. Lord Palmerston, in his address to his constituents, at Tiverton, appealed to the regard of the English people for their national honour, which he charged his opponents with seeking to tarnish. He asserted, that he and his government wished to punish "an insolent barbarian," who, "wielding authority at Canton, had violated the British flag, broken the engagements of treaties, offered rewards for the heads of British subjects in that part of China, and planned their destruction by murders, assassinations, and poisons." He contrasted this patriotism, on the part of himself and his colleagues, with the conduct of the opposition, who, he said, were "endeavouring to make the humiliation and degradation of their country a stepping-stone to power." This appeal was not merely disingenuous, it was dishonest. The atrocities of Yeh were the *consequence*, and not the *cause*, of the *first* hostile operations which Mr. Cobden's resolution condemned; and the supporters of that resolution—especially that class of them whom Lord Palmerston charged with aiming at power—were as zealous for the national honour as his lordship himself could be; and were quite as unlikely to succumb to national "humiliation and degradation." But the appeal had its effect: a large majority of the members in the new House of Commons were pledged to support Lord Palmerston; in consequence, the ministry announced their intention to stand firmly by Sir John Bowring, and to send both troops and ships to reinforce Sir Michael Seymour. Notwithstanding their public declarations, there is reason to suppose that they were not quite satisfied with the conduct of her majesty's plenipotentiary, as they resolved to send Lord Elgin to take the management of the negotiations with the Chinese government out of his hands.

In resolving to send additional ships and troops to the Chinese waters, ministers were carrying out the wishes of the officials in China, who were quite convinced, from the attitude assumed by Yeh, that nothing but force would avail with the imperial commissioner. Writing, on the 10th of March, Sir J. Bowring remarked—"I am disposed to think, that the imperial commissioner will maintain his present position as long as we are unable to visit him with any serious molestation, trusting to the chapter of accidents for some turn in his favour." And Admiral Seymour, on the 15th, wrote home as follows:—

"As regards the imperial high commissioner, from all that I can learn, his excellency is still animated by feelings of the deepest hostility, and he has increased his garrison at Canton. Nothing but an adequate military force can, in my opinion, replace our relations on a proper footing, and ultimately secure the due fulfilment of treaty stipulations. I am in daily expectation of the arrival of the steam-sloops and gun-boats."

The government were active in their arrangements for the dispatch of ships of war and gun-boats to China, with several regiments of troops, under the command of Lieutenant-general Ashburnham—the second in command being Major-general Straubenzee. After they had sailed, news of the Indian mutiny reached England, and instructions were transmitted by telegraph and special messenger, for the troops to proceed to Calcutta instead of Canton; instructions which were anticipated by Lord Canning. His lordship, learning that several regiments had been dispatched to China, and feeling the absolute necessity for the presence of more English soldiers in India, sent a vessel to await their arrival at Ceylon, with a request that they would deviate from their route, in order to join the British army in India; which they did. The vessels of war, and the generals, proceeded to their destination, and were followed by Lord Elgin, as "her majesty's ambassador-extraordinary to the emperor of China."

The imperial commissioner had shown no signs of submission, and he had received the cordial support of the emperor, who issued orders, prohibiting the inhabitants of the ports opened by the treaty of 1842, from trading with the British—(orders which were not obeyed)—and directing the imperial fleets and armies to attack the English wherever they met with them. In pursuance of these orders, the opium markets were provisionally closed; and cordons of troops were placed round Shanghai and the other ports, to prevent the English from penetrating into the interior. Early in March, an imperial edict appeared, in which Yeh was directed "to carry on a war of extermination against the foreign barbarians who had attacked him; and who, he was told, must receive from him exemplary chastisement." After "the vengeance inflicted" was deemed by him to be "sufficient," then, if those "barbarians manifested sincere repentance for what they had done, the emperor, the magnanimous sovereign, who was inundated with floods of light," would "consent that hostilities should cease, and that commercial affairs should be resumed with those foreigners, as they existed before their fault." Yeh himself, at the head of 30,000 men, was, at the close of March, at Sou-tche-ting, a large village of Kouang-tcheou, about fifteen miles from Canton. There he fortified himself in a good position, which allowed him to maintain his communications with Peking, and with the provinces which formed his viceroyalty. He occupied himself with raising new levies and extraordinary taxes, and with endeavouring to enforce the imperial edicts against the English.

Few events occurred in March or April worth mentioning in this narrative. Some Chinese passengers, left too much in command of the vessel, massacred the officers and crew of the steamer *Queen*, going up to Canton; and several attacks were made by the Chinese upon single vessels, when they were met with. The pirates, too, were found to be resuming their activity; and, on the 19th of March, Captain Forsythe, in the *Hornet*, attacked, and compelled the crews to abandon, seventeen large pirate junks, lying in Sandy Bay, St. John's Island. They mounted seventy-three guns of various calibre, and their crews amounted to 350 men. These vessels were all

on shore, and not worth the trouble of getting off; Captain Forsythe burnt them, and destroyed the guns. In the beginning of April, it was ascertained that a fleet of war-junks, which had been engaged in cutting off the British supplies of market produce, were lying in Deep Bay. The *Sampson* and *Hornet*, with two tenders, the *Hong-Kong* and *Sir Charles Forbes*, were sent, on the 6th, to take or destroy them. They were found in a river high up the bay; and, as there was not water enough for the vessels, the boats, with those of the *Sybille* and *Nanking*, proceeded to the attack, the operations being directed by Commodore the Hon. G. J. B. Elliot; Captain Hand, of the *Sampson*, and Captain Forsythe, of the *Hornet*, commanding in the boats. As they approached, the junks opened a heavy fire, which was supported by that of some troops on shore. It was soon silenced by the steadier fire of the British; and on the crews landing, the enemy fled into the interior. They had run the junks, eleven in number, and two armed lorchas, their prizes, aground; and, as they could not be got off, they were burnt, and the guns sunk. A number of Chinese documents were found on board these vessels, from some of which it appeared, that Yeh's finances were running very low.

In April and May, several large vessels, and a number of gun-boats, arrived in the Chinese waters. One of the former, the *Raleigh* (50), Commodore the Hon. H. Keppel, which was among the earliest arrivals, was lost on the 14th of April, by striking on a rock not laid down in the chart. She was so much injured, that it became necessary to run her ashore on the east side of Ko-ho Island. Her crew were all saved, and dispersed amongst the other ships, and the gun-boats. As soon as a sufficient number of the latter had joined, Rear-admiral Seymour determined to destroy the large fleets of junks which were known to be sheltered in the Escape, Tszekee, and Second-bar Creeks, and Sawshee Channel, on the east side of the Pearl River, and in Fatshan Creek on the left. The first expedition, under the command of Commodore Elliot, consisted of the *Hong-Kong*, *Bustard*, *Staunch*, *Starling*, and *Algerine*, gun-boats, each carrying two 68-pounders, and the boats of the *Hornet*, *Tribune* (31), and *Inflexible* (6). They scoured the creeks and channel on the east, and the operations extended over the 25th, 26th, and 27th of May; the number of junks destroyed being forty-two.

The expedition to the Fatshan Creek was undertaken on the 1st of June, and is described as a most daring and dashing affair. The force employed comprised the *Coromandel*, the steam gun-boats, *Hong-Kong*, *Haughty*, *Plover*, *Opossum*, *Forrester*, *Glover*, *Bustard*, *Starling*, and *Staunch;* the barge of the *Calcutta*, the pinnace of the *Raleigh*, and the boats of twelve other ships. There were near 2,000 fighting-men on board these vessels, 400 of whom were marines; and they were arranged in four divisions, under, 1st, Commodore Elliot; 2nd, Commodore Keppel; 3rd, Captain Grenfell; and 4th, Captain Keith Stewart. The rear-admiral directed the operations, hoisting his flag on board the *Coromandel*. The Fatshan Creek is a continuation of the Blenheim and Elliot passages of the Pearl River, which unite near the south-western extremity of Honan Island, and, running some distance to the westward, then take a north-west direction to the city of Fatshan. Hyacinth Island lies at the mouth of the Fatshan branch, to the south-west of Gough Island. On this island was a strong fort, mounting nineteen guns, the capture of which was the first object. The *Coromandel*, in which Sir M. Seymour led the attack, grounded about 1,500 yards from the fort, on a barrier of sunken junks, filled with stones; but the seamen and marines went ahead in the boats, landed under a heavy fire of round shot and grape, and the fort was almost immediately in their possession, Commodore Elliot being one of the first to enter it. Some of the guns in the fort were immediately turned on the war-junks lying beyond the island, upwards of seventy in number; to attack which, the second, third, and fourth divisions, led by Commodore Keppel, in the *Hong-Kong*, advanced up the channel, on the east side of Hyacinth Island. The gun-boats, with the exception of the *Haughty* and *Plover*, soon grounded; but the other boats pushed ahead. The junks, which were admirably moored in position to enfilade the whole of the attacking force, kept up a heavy fire, till our boats were close alongside, when the crew, as usual, jumped out, and made off across the paddy-fields. In about fifty minutes the British had possession of fifty junks. The third and fourth divisions were left to secure the prizes; and Commodore Keppel, with the second division, went three miles further up the creek, where he found twenty junks moored across the stream. The fire from these vessels was so heavy and well-directed, that the commodore was obliged to retire and wait for reinforcements, the barge of the *Calcutta* having been sunk by a round shot. As soon as reinforcements arrived, the action was renewed; the junks broke their line, and ran up to Fatshan—three of them passing beyond it: the latter were not pursued, as the rear-admiral had given orders that the large and important city of Fatshan should not be molested. Commodore Keppel captured and burnt seventeen of these vessels. Several more were destroyed in another part of the creek; and Sir M. Seymour, in his report of the action, says—"The result of the expedition was the capture of between seventy and eighty heavily-armed junks, mounting, on an average, from ten to fourteen guns, many of them long 32-pounders." As no object would have been gained by removing the prizes, most of them were burnt. The rear-admiral added—"This engagement opens a new era in Chinese naval warfare. Great judgment was shown in selecting a position for the fleet; and the Chinese, particularly the last division, attacked by Commodore Keppel, defended their ships with skill, courage, and effect." In the affair of the 25th, 26th, and 27th of May, the British had thirty-one seamen and marines wounded; the greater number on the 27th, when the Chinese fought, for a short time, most desperately. In that of Fatshan Creek, they had thirteen killed, and sixty-two wounded. When it closed—

"At sun-down, the view from the deck of the *Coromandel* was a mixture of the grotesque and the sublime. The boats were all adorned with barbaric spoils; banners of every amplitude, some of them adorned with colossal pictures of the fat god Fo, flaunted upon the breeze. Mandarins' coats and mandarins' breeches were freely worn. Commodore Elliot's crew were equipped each with a mandarin's hat, and fox's tail. They had dutifully reserved one for the commodore, but he was not seen to put it on. Around, far as the eye could reach, following the windings of the maze of creeks, many war-junks were smouldering or blazing; and every five minutes, an explosion shook the air." * * * "Next morning, the fleet of gun and ships' boats, and the steamers, passed down the river. Two war-junks appeared, three miles astern. They were chasing the barbarians."*

* Wingrove Cooke.

After this brilliant affair, the rear-admiral returned to Hong-Kong; Commodore Keppel remaining in command, from Chucupee Fort (which he captured on the 16th of June) to Macao Fort. A long period of inaction ensued—forces being wanted to carry out any decisive operations on land. Lord Elgin arrived at Hong-Kong on the 2nd of July; and a day or two after he was followed by the Baron Gros, whom the emperor of France had sent as commissioner-extraordinary, to co-operate with his lordship. His imperial majesty sent some gun-boats and troops to China, to take part in the war, as he also wished to obtain greater freedom of intercourse for Europeans in China, and to compel the Chinese to observe better faith than it was assumed they had hitherto done. It was not till October and November that the great body of the forces arrived; the first English regiments that reached Ceylon, being, as already stated, diverted to Calcutta, where Lieutenant-general Ashburnham also proceeded, when, on arriving at Hong-Kong, he found there were no troops to command. The arrival of the forces in autumn, and the preparations which were making, could not be concealed from the Chinese. They heard the rumour, also, that Canton was to be attacked; and many of the inhabitants of that city removed to the neighbouring villages: not a few took their families to Macao; and some even went to Hong-Kong.

In December, the British and French—now again allies—thought themselves sufficiently strong to attack Canton. In the beginning of the month, there were forty-nine vessels of the British navy at Hong-Kong—sailing-vessels, paddle and screw steamers, and gun-boats—carrying a total of 413 guns. The French had twelve vessels, carrying 195 guns. The Portuguese, Dutch, Russians, and Americans, had also several vessels of war in the estuary of the Pearl River. There were about 800 or 1,000 English soldiers at Hong-Kong, under the command of Major-general Straubenzee; Sir M. Seymour remained in command of the fleet; and Admiral de Genouilly commanded the French squadron. On the 12th of December, a proclamation appeared, announcing that an "effective blockade was established of the river and port of Canton, and its tributaries," by the naval forces of Great Britain and France. The same day, a correspondence was opened between Lord Elgin and Yeh; the former informing the commissioner, that England and France had united, "to seek, by vigorous action, explanations for past, and security against future, wrongs;" and they demanded—"1. The complete execution of all treaty engagements, including the admission of British subjects to Canton. 2. Compensation to British subjects, and any person entitled to British protection, for losses incurred in consequence of the late disturbances." The correspondence continued till the 25th, and left things, at the close, as they were when it commenced—Yeh complimenting Lord Elgin personally, and expressing peaceable and friendly sentiments; but contending that, in the incidents which caused the quarrel, "justice and equity were on the side of the Chinese;" and meeting the demand for compensation by a counter-claim for the people of Canton, as Mr. Consul Parkes had, "without any cause, commenced hostilities, attacked the forts along the different approaches, and thrice sent troops to fire buildings and dwellings in various directions."

While this correspondence had been going on, the troops had been removed to Honan Island, opposite Canton, where the British and French commanders-in-chief took up their head-quarters. Lord Elgin and the Baron le Gros had also repaired to Honan; and, on the 21st of December, they formally handed over to the military and naval authorities the further arrangement of affairs. Batteries were then thrown up on the island; the Dutch Folly was converted into a mortar battery; another mortar battery was erected upon the peninsula on which the French Folly stands; and a party of sappers and miners, and a battalion of the 38th Madras infantry, were landed on the continent, about two miles from the city, to make a landing-place for the artillery, with two companies of the 59th, to protect the working parties. On the 27th, orders were given for the attack to take place the next morning; and the serious attention of officers and men was called, by Rear-admiral Seymour, "to the necessity of carefully protecting the lives and property of the peaceable and unarmed inhabitants;" that officer declaring "his determination to discountenance and prevent all 'looting' or plundering." In the same order, the "warmest thanks" of the rear-admiral were conveyed to Commodore Elliot, and the whole squadron, officers and seamen, "for the patient endurance they had evinced for the last twelve months." The detailed plan of operations was also circulated amongst the officers on the evening of the 27th.

"The land forces, under Major-general Van Straubenzee, were to be formed in two divisions. The *first*, under Colonel Holloway, to comprise the 1st and 2nd battalions of the royal marine light infantry. The *second*, commanded by Colonel Graham—the royal engineers, and volunteer company of sappers; the royal artillery, and royal marine artillery; provisional battalion of royal marine light infantry; the 59th European, and the 38th Madras native infantry regiments. The English and French naval brigades were to take part in the attack, the first being formed in three divisions—the *first*, Captain the Hon. Keith Stewart; the *second*, Captain A. C. Key; the *third*, Captain Sir R. Maclure—under the command of Commodore Elliot. The stations of the gun-boats were pointed out; and it was directed that the bombardment should be in very slow time, continued day and night, and not to exceed sixty rounds during the first twenty-four hours, except from the gun-boats stationed between the French and Dutch Follies (whose fire took in the south-east angle, and east walls of the city), which were to fire 100 rounds. The number of men was estimated to be—soldiers, 800; royal marines, 2,100; naval brigade, 1,829; French naval brigade, 950: total, 5,679."

This was a very small force to attack a city like Canton, with its million of inhabitants; but the men went to their duty with no fear of discomfiture. At daybreak on the 28th the bombardment began; about mid-day the land forces debarked at Kuper Creek, to the east of the city; and, before dark, captured the Lin or the East Fort, and established themselves on the east side of Canton. On the 29th, the city walls were breached, escaladed, and carried by 10 A.M.: soon after, the flags of the allies floated over the city heights, including two forts, mounted with heavy guns, and a red-brick building, called the "Five-storied Pagoda;" and by half-past two, Fort Gough, on the north of the city, was also in our power. The allies then had the complete command of Canton; but this advantage was not gained without hard fighting. The Chinese troops were numerous; they kept up a smart and incessant fire with jingals and the artillery from the city walls; and, in two instances, stood their ground, for a short time, in a hand-to-hand fight. But their numbers could not withstand British valour and

discipline; and our soldiers and sailors were efficiently supported by the French, who, small in number, had a post of honour at the head of one of the attacking columns reserved for them by Rear-admiral Seymour—a "proof of sympathy," says Admiral Genouilly, in his despatch, which "touched our marines and soldiers in a very lively manner." The loss, in killed and wounded, was: English—8 killed, and 71 wounded; French—3 killed, and 30 wounded: total, 112. An explosion of gunpowder also took place, which wounded 17 more. Amongst the English killed, were two officers—Captain Bate, of the *Actæon*, who was universally regretted; and Lieutenant Hackett, of the 59th. Mr. Thomson, midshipman of the *Sanspareil*, was severely wounded by a rocket; he died subsequently from the effects of the wound.

The night of the 29th, the allies bivouacked round Canton, or established themselves in the captured forts and pagoda, the city being on fire in several places, and the flames illuminating everything around. The next morning the Chinese sent a flag of truce, begging permission to bury their dead, which was granted. It was soon found that they had abandoned all the defences of the city, and no further opposition was offered. On the other hand, the expected submission was not made. After remaining six days in position on the heights and walls, during which time Gough Fort, and another fortress, which the allies could not garrison, were dismantled, and the guns on the walls, &c., spiked; and Yeh remaining silent, the allied commanders resolved to capture that official, if he was in the city. Accordingly, about half-past seven A.M., on the 5th of January, 1858, the English entered Canton in three columns, supported by one column of French. They met with no resistance. One English column captured Pequi, or Peh-Kwei, the Tartar governor of the city; a second made its way to the Treasury, where fifty-two boxes of dollars, and sixty-eight packages of Sycee silver, were taken possession of; and the French, under Captain Jules Collier, seized the Tartar general, Tseang-Kean. The great prize—Yeh—fell into the hands of a party led by Commodore Elliot and Captain Key, and accompanied by Consul Parkes. The high commissioner was captured in a most undignified manner. A maze of narrow intricate streets conducted to his yamun. When the party reached it, and some of them entered the house, a man of considerable rotundity of person was seen endeavouring to make his escape over a wall. The cry being raised that it was "Yeh," Captain Key and Commodore Elliot's cockswain rushed forward together. The former put his arm round the fugitive's waist, whilst the latter seized his tail, and wrapped it round his wrist. The prisoner was found to be the veritable Yeh; three hearty cheers announced his capture, and he was instantly taken on board the *Inflexible*, where he remained till the 17th of March, when he was removed to Calcutta, where he still (February, 1859) remains.

The allies, in a few days, reorganised the government of Canton, reinstating the Tartar Pequi, and appointing Colonel Holloway, Captain Martineau, and Mr. Parkes, a council to assist him. He was to act under the authority of the allies—Canton being retained as "a material guarantee," till their demands were complied with. A general order was issued on the 12th of January, conveying to the troops, sailors, and marines, the commander-in-chief's "warm admiration of their gallantry and good conduct;" and, on the 10th of February, the blockade of Canton was raised. The English and French plenipotentiaries soon after proceeded to Hong-Kong, where they met Count Puniatin, the Russian, and Mr. Reed, the American, ambassadors. Several consultations were held; the result of which was, that the representatives of the four powers agreed to proceed northwards, for the purpose of communicating with the emperor, and, if possible, inducing him to yield fair and equitable terms, without any more bloodshed. The first destination of the plenipotentiaries was the gulf of Pecheli, where Lord Elgin and Baron Gros arrived on the 14th of April, with one English line-of-battle ship, a frigate, and four gun-boats; and two French corvettes, and three gun-boats. They immediately proceeded to the Peiho, where they anchored eleven miles from the mouth of that river, and 140 from Peking. Here they awaited reinforcements, and were joined by Count Puniatin and Mr. Reed, who arrived in the Russian steamer *America*. On the 24th of April, messengers were sent from the four ministers, to inform the Chinese government of their arrival, and allowing time for an envoy to be sent to negotiate with them. An imperial commissioner did arrive; but his powers were inadequate; and preparations were made to proceed up the river, previous to which it was necessary that the Taku forts, which defended its mouth, should be taken, in order that the return of the ambassadors might not be impeded. There were five of these forts—two on the north, and three on the south side of the river. They were formidable defences, having been greatly strengthened after the arrival of the allies in the gulf; and earth-works, sand-bag batteries, and parapets for the heavy jingals, had been erected on both sides for nearly a mile, upon which eighty-seven guns in position were visible. The whole shore had also been piled to oppose a landing; two strong mud batteries, mounting, respectively, thirty-three and sixteen guns, having been constructed about a thousand yards up the river; and, in the rear, several intrenched camps were visible, defended by flanking bastions.

The united armaments arrived off these forts on the morning of the 20th of May. They found them, as well as the camps, covered with the colours under which the troops of the eight banners range themselves; and when summoned to surrender, no answer was returned. After several hours' grace had been allowed, the signal for attack was made. The *Cormorant* (6), English, with the *Fusée* and *Mitraille*, French, assailed the forts on the north; the *Nimrod* (6), English, and the *Avalanche* and *Dragon*, French, those on the south. They were supported by several gun-boats; and landing parties, under Captains Sir F. Nicholson, Sherard Osborne, and Hall, and Commanders Cresswell and Leckie; and a French landing party, under Captains Leveque and Reynaud. The gun-boats were led by Rear-admiral Seymour and Admiral Genouille, in the *Slaney*. The *Cormorant* was the first in the *mêlée*. She had to break through a formidable barrier, which was not observed at first, and was fired on by the forts from both sides the stream as she advanced. Not a shot was returned till the vessel had taken up a good position; then, giving one discharge to the forts on the south, she poured in such a destructive fire upon those on the north, that their guns—which were well served—were nearly silenced before the French came up. As the other vessels approached, took up their positions, and opened their fire, the Chinese returned it with great rapidity; but they would not engage the landing parties, who, as soon as they

set foot on shore, rushed to the attack. An officer, writing to the *Overland Mail*, says—"The Chinese stuck to their guns bravely. I doubt if Europeans, under such unequal odds in material, would have done better. But the fire of the allies was first-rate; the shells burst in the enclosures, wounding men, and damaging guns, carriages, and works." When the landing parties got near, the enemy ran, and "precious fast too," says the officer just quoted. The batteries and camps were deserted, as well as the forts; and the *Staunch*, *Opossum*, *Bustard*, and *Slaney*, sailed a littlo further up the river, drove the enemy away from some other defences, and spiked the guns. All was over by 2 P.M., the enemy having becomo invisible; and 150 brass guns, some of them of excellent workmanship, were left in our possession. The rejoicing at the successful termiuation of this affair was damped by a melancholy catastrophe that occurred in the afternoon. A fort which, by mutual consent, had been set apart for the quarters of some of the French, blew up with a tremendous explosion, when the seamen, marines, and soldiers were taking their ease, in the way of lying down, chatting and smoking, or devouring the contents of havresacks. There is no certainty as to the cause, but it was supposed to have arisen from the ashes of a pipe, or a spark from a fire, igniting some of the loose powder which the Chinese always leave carelessly about, or igniting one of their wretched magazines. The consequences were fatal to forty of the French troops, including four officers. In the capture of the forts they had six killed and sixty-one wounded; the British loss was five killed and sixteen wounded.

After the capture of the forts, more gun-boats having arrived, the ambassadors proceeded up the river to the city of Tien-tsin, eighty miles from Peking, where they arrived on the 20th of May. No attempt was made by the Chinese to impede them; and the people supplied the expedition with excellent provisions at a cheap rate. Shortly after their arrival, the ambassadors received information that the second officer of the empire, and the president of one of the six boards of government, had arrived to negotiate, being invested with full powers for that purpose. The first interview between these plenipotentiaries and Lord Elgin, Baron Gros, Count Putiatin, and Mr. Reed, took place on the 4th of June. The negotiatious proceeded favourably; the four plenipotentiaries concluding separate treaties with the imperial commissioners. The British treaty was signed on the 26th of June.

It confirms the treaty of 1842, and abrogates the supplementary one of October, 1843. Provides for the residence of a British and a Chinese minister, at the courts of Peking and London respectively; who are to transact business with a secretary of state, or some high officer nominated by the sovereigns, on the footing of equality. Guarantees the toleration of Christianity throughout the Chinese empire, and the protection of its professors. Allows British subjects, with a consul's passport, to visit any part of the interior of China, and purchase landed property. Removes all restrictions on the employment, in any lawful capacity, of the Chinese by British subjects. Permits British ships of war to enter any Chinese port. Engages both powers to take measures for the suppression of piracy; and provides for the proper regulation of the tariff and of trade; opening five new ports—New-chwang, Tang-chow, Chow-chow (Swatow), Tai-wan in Formosa, and Kiung-chow, in Hainan—to foreign trade. It also stipulates that the Chinese "*I*" (barbarian) shall not be applied, in future, in official documents, to British subjects. By a separate article, an indemnity of 4,000,000 taels was agreed to be paid for the expenses of the war, and the losses of the British merchants by the events at Canton.

The American treaty, which was the first concluded, is not so favourable to the United States, on many points, as that negotiated by Lord Elgin is to England. The provisions of tho Russian and French treaties, signed on the 27th of June, are very similar to the latter. After the documeuts had been signed, the plenipotentiaries left Tien-tsin, and Lord Elgin proceeded to Japan, where he was well received; and, after a fortnight's residence at Yedo, he concluded a treaty with the government, opeuing the Japauese empire to British commerce. This document was signed on the 26th of August; aud great benefits to both countries are expected as the result.

Whilst these events were transpiring iu the north, Major-general Straubenzee had a difficult task to preserve peace in the south—the "braves" collecting in great numbers, and attacking and murdering the English and Freuch, if they went by twos or threes into Canton, or its vicinity. A severe police at length established something like order. In August, Sir John Bowring issued a proclamation, containing instructions, &c., rendered necessary by the conclusion of peace. A boat, with a flag of truce, which was proceeding from Hong-Kong to distribute this document, was fired upon by the imperial troops at Nam-tow. In consequence, a small expedition, consisting of detachments of the 59th regiment, of the 12th Madras native iufantry, of royal artillery, engineers, and marines—in all, forty officers, aud 489 non-commissioned officers and privates—was sent to punish the offenders. The expedition landed on the 11th of August, under a heavy fire of jingals, drove the garrison out, took the fort, which they destroyed, and returned to Canton the next morning, carrying away two large brass guns. This was the last act of hostility that we have heard of; and we learn, by the recent arrivals, that Lord Elgin has succeeded in arranging the tariff which is to be observed in future, satisfactorily to all parties. By the regulations agreed to, the opium trade is legalised. The drug may, iu future, be imported into China, on payment of a duty of thirty taels (£10) per 100 catties (about 113 lbs.) Iu the *London Gazette* of January 14th, 1859, the appointment of the Hon. Frederick William Adolphus Bruce, as envoy extraordinary, and minister plenipotentiary to the emperor of China, is officially announced; and also of consuls to reside at Canton, Amoy, Shanghai, Tang-chow, New-chwang, Foo-chow-foo, Chin-kiang, Ningpo, and Swatow; and a consul-general in Japan. Thus our relations with China are re-established; and a new alliance is opened with Japau: and, in closing our brief narrative, we would express an earnest hope that it may be followed by many years of peace, during which the intercourse with Europe may be the means of diffusing among both the Chinese and Japanese, the blessings of a pure faith, and the accompanying advantages of civilisation, which will open out to them prospects of prosperity and happiness superior to anything they have ever yet enjoyed.

THE END.

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